

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 125

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY JUNE 25, 2015

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

1-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR FITIAL

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed yesterday a one-year prison sentence on 69-year-old former governor Benigno R. Fitia, who is convicted of misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

"Such conduct cannot, should not, and will not be tolerated and the proverbial message must be sent that government officials who betray the public trust by violating the laws of the CNMI will in all likelihood go to jail,"

See FITIAL on Page 4

'No one is above the law'

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

The court's decision to sentence former governor Benigno R. Fitia to one year in prison sends a strong message to everyone in the CNMI that no one is above the law.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed on Wednesday

the prison sentence on the 69-year-old former governor who was earlier convicted of misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

For citizen activist Glen Hunter, the decision is "historic" and will show to CNMI citizens and government officials that no matter "how

See LAW on Page 4



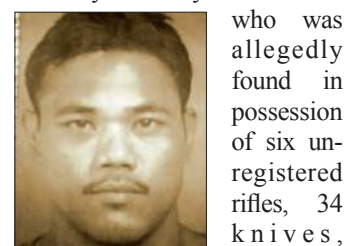
Former governor Benigno R. Fitia walks outside the courtroom with his wife, Josefina, and a relative after a sentencing hearing yesterday afternoon. Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman slapped Fitia with a one-year prison term for misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Man allegedly sold gun; yields 5 more firearms, bullets, 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested in Dandan on Tuesday a 31-year-old man



who was allegedly found in possession of six unregistered rifles, 34 knives, two bayonets, 98 different types of bullets, and more than 5 grams of methamphetamine or "ice."

Don Sanchez was taken to

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

In their own way, GetFitCNMI said they are helping the community toward better living.

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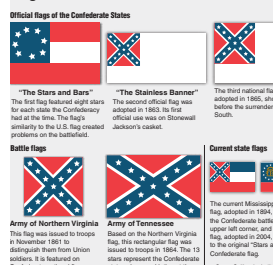


LOCAL

The CNMI's National Speech and Debate Association team recently concluded their weeklong trip to Dallas, Texas.

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Flags of the Confederate States of America



NATION

South Carolina lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to consider removing the Confederate flag from their Statehouse grounds.

» **PAGE 17**



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Local

LibDay celebration includes '2015 CNMI Talent Fest'

The 2015 Liberation Day festivities just got more a lot exciting with the addition of the first-ever "CNMI Talent Fest," a talent

competition open to all that will take place on the Liberation Day stage at Garapan Fishing Base starting July 9.

Centered on the Liberation Day theme of "Peace in diversity," the competition aims to celebrate the CNMI's wide array of

local talent—from musicians, to dancers to practically anyone with a talent that can perform on the Liberation Day stage.

Starting July 9, an hour of the Liberation Carnival's evening entertainment will showcase that talent with subsequent performances happening at the same time every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. Each night, two winners will be selected through SMS channel voting by audiences to move

on to the semifinal round, performances of which are scheduled from Aug. 12. The championship round will take place on Aug. 16.

Participants will be competing for a grand prize of \$5,000 as well as lesser consolation prizes that will be announced in

See LIBDAY on Page 4

Five free booths offered to college students, non-profit organizations

The 2015 Liberation Day Committee is willing to provide five free booths to college students and non-profit organizations with one-week rights to use the booth but applications must be filled.

Through the Liberation Day Committee, college students will benefit and have a chance in earning money during the summer. Non-profit organizations will also have the opportunity to provide service for the local people.

Celebrating peace and diversity for 70 years, the 2015 Liberation Day Committee through Skywalker Communications Group in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office will be kicking off the biggest event of the year, that will benefit the community and stick with its long standing tradition.

Applications can be picked up at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at the Ladera Center in Beach Road or the Skywalker Communications Office at Marianas Business Plaza's Room 204 in Susupe or email ldcnmi@gmail.com.

Booths will be open from June 27 to Aug. 16, 2015. The 2015 Liberation Day Carnival grounds will be opened on June 27 and run from Mondays to Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm; Fridays will be from 6pm to 11pm; Saturdays from 10am to 11pm; and on Sundays from 10am to 10pm. July 4 will be the official kick-off for the parade.

For more information contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or Skywalker Communications Group at 234-7942. (PR)



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PEACE IN DIVERSITY

2015CNMI LIBERATION FESTIVITIES

2015 CNMI Liberation Festivities Schedule

<p>06.27 The Unveiling - Mascot Debut, Name the Mascot Contest Kickoff, & Block Party</p> <p>07.01 Royal Court Coronation Ball</p> <p>07.04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parade • Opening Ceremonies • Lucky Draw Raffle Winners • Performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks • Mascot Naming Contest Winner <p>07.05 CNMI Talent Fest - Round 1</p> <p>07.15 Carnival - Phase 1</p> <p>07.30 Carnival - Phase 2</p> <p>08.16 Closing Ceremonies & Talent Fest - Final Competition</p>
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Mariana Resort 'shocked' by DPL decision on lease

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Kitami family and employees of the Mariana Resort & Spa were "shocked" by the decision of the Department of Public Lands to solicit competitive bids instead of granting a lease for the Japanese-owned resort.

"Kan Pacific has received the letter from DPL. KPS (Kan Pa-

cific Saipan), the Kitami family, and our employees are feeling shocked because we were led to believe we were getting another lease," a formal response, sent by email by Gloria Cavanagh, Mariana Resort & Spa general manager, said.

The letter said Kan Pacific "received reassurances of this as recently as two months ago."

"We intend to discuss this matter with the DPL and hope-

fully come to an agreeable resolution in the near future," the letter further said.

DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, in a letter, said "after considering all options, it is the position of this department that the best interest of the collective owners of public land are best served by conducting a global solicitation for proposals for the public land upon expiration of existing leases."

Tenorio added, "this will be the rule for any expiring leases with our government." The letter was addressed to Yoshihiro Kitami, president of Mariana Resort & Spa. The resort's long-term lease with the government is set to expire in 2018.

Wrong signal

Field and Landing Beaches Historic National Landmark.

The proposed ramp would result in the dredging of 10 acres of coral with "direct and indirect effects up to 20 acres."

"The ramp will kill coral, lead to less habitat for fish, would harm sea turtles, and reduce tourism opportunities. Unai Chulu is currently a popular beach for tourists. There will be significant environmental and, we believe, economic impacts," the administration had said.

On Tinian water sources, the administration said, several studies in existence and contrary to findings in the draft EIS show that military munitions "can and do" contaminate soil and groundwater near firing ranges and other military facilities.

On Pagan, the administration said the final EIS needs to "properly address Pagan as a homeland to people of the Northern Islands." They also said the military should address the effect of run-off and sedimentation from live fire on Pagan because the nature of the bombing activities there will likely cause soil and munitions runoff.

"Saying the land is relatively flat is not sufficient. Heavy rains can still wash pollutants off and into the sea," the administration said.

Preliminary EIS comments are in for review

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Departments and agencies have submitted their preliminary comments on impact documents for the U.S. military's proposed live-fire and explosive ordnance training on Tinian and Pagan, according to the administration yesterday.

The administration said they and their consultants, Denonts, have begun review of these comments from CNMI departments and agencies.

These departments and agencies oversee, among others, tourism, land, and environmental matters.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Department of Public Lands, as well as the Department of Land and Natural Resources, make up this group, along with other agencies.

In an earlier statement, the administration disclosed concerns over the potential loss of acres of coral on Tinian, the contamination of its sole source aquifer by munitions, and the forced displacement of thousands of endangered birds, among others.

The administration said the military plans to build ramps for amphibious assault vehicles off Tinian occur at Unai Chulu, a site that is part of the North

Rumors persist, but Inos not stepping down

Press Secretary Ivan Blanco dismissed rumors that Gov. Eloy S. Inos is resigning due to the continued decline of his health.

Blanco said as far as he knows, the governor continues to report to Capital Hill to perform his duties. He said Inos also continues his regular medical treatment, including regular dialysis.

Rumors have been persistent, particularly online comments citing Inos' frail appearance in the public functions that he has been attending.

According to one government worker, who requested anonymity, some CNMI residents also voiced their concerns and directly asked if the top official is "okay" or if he will still continue to run the

government.

This is not the first time that Inos' health has been questioned.

Back in February, Inos issued a statement to say that he is "okay."



Inos

He clarified that he sought treatment back then for "what the doctors were calling symptoms of pneumonia."

Inos has always been open about his health condition, earlier revealing that he's been receiving dialysis thrice a week.

Shortly after returning from a routine checkup in the Philippines in early November last year, Inos disclosed that his medical leave to Manila was for a follow up to a bypass heart surgery he had in 2006. (Joel Pinaroc)



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MAN

From Page 1

Superior Court yesterday on charges of manufacture, sale or possession of firearms and dangerous devices; possession and carrying of firearms, and trafficking and possession of controlled substance.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$100,000

cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for June 30.

Assistant public defender Mathew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Sanchez.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said the weapons and \$1,000 worth of “ice” were seized during a search at Sanchez’s residence along Flame Tree Road in Dandan.

Tarkong said the operation

was in line with DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero’s war on “ice.”

He said the raid was conducted by DPS in collaboration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Customs Services, and the Homeland Security Investigations.

Tarkong said the joint operation was launched after Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa

Kim-Tenorio issued a search and arrest warrant for firearms and drugs against Sanchez.

Tarkong said police detective Jesus K. Wabol requested for the search and arrest warrant after receiving information that Sanchez was involved in selling guns.

Wabol said that last Saturday, a “cooperating defendant” disclosed that Sanchez offered to sell him an M1 rifle.

Wabol said the following day the “cooperating defendant” revealed that Sanchez was willing to sell the gun for \$300.

The detective said police and CNMI-DEA Task Force conducted a monitored buy operation against Sanchez on Tuesday using the “cooperating defendant.”

Wabol said the “cooperating defendant” managed to

buy from Sanchez the M1 rifle with three bullets and one magazine. It was Sanchez’s cousin who allegedly received the money.

The “cooperating defendant” was allegedly found a residue of “ice” from his car.

Authorities then raided Sanchez’s house, where they recovered more guns, “ice,” and other weapons.

LAW

From Page 1

powerful they are, no one is above the law.”

Hunter is a vocal supporter of anti-corruption campaigns in the CNMI and gave a personal testimony on the earlier stages of impeachment moves against Fitial.

He recalls that during these earlier stages of the impeachment, many members of the public were saying that “it is a waste of time” to pursue such action and “that’s just the way it

is” in government.

“But we know now that the wheels of justice are turning. They might turn slowly, but they are turning,” Hunter said.

Misconduct and conspiracy were included as grounds for Fitial’s impeachment.

Hunter also said the concerned departments including the Office of the Public Auditor, the Department of the Public Safety, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation “rose to the challenge.”

“I would like to thank everyone who participated in the investigation and prosecution of

this case,” Hunter said.

Reactions

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has yet not issue a comment regarding the case, but is expected to issue a formal statement today, according to Press Secretary Ivan Blanco.

The leaders of the Legislature have yet to issue their respective statements on the sentencing.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Victor C. Hocog (Ind-Rota) by mobile phone yesterday evening but was unsuccessful.

Minority leader Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) also declined to issue any comment on the case.

For Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Fitial’s sentencing “is not something we should celebrate.”

“If anything, it is something we need to learn from. We all must realize that none of us are above the law, most especially elected officials. We are a compassionate and forgiving people, and that is a good thing, but we must ensure that everyone adheres to the laws of the land,” Propst said.

LIBDAY

From Page 2

the coming days.

Those interested can apply for a spot in the competition by downloading the application form online at the 2015 Liberation Festivities Facebook page, facebook.com/Liberation-Fest2015, as well as email to ldcnmi@gmail.com and submitting it any time before July 3. There will be a round of auditions on July 5 at the Mariana Business Plaza. Once all participants have been screened, a schedule with performance

times will be posted on the Liberation Day Facebook page.

A person may apply more than once, provided that each application is for a different, unique talent. This also means that an individual can apply as a solo performer and also be a member of a group performance, but a single individual may only take part in a maximum of three performances in the competition. Applicants under 16 years old must have his or her parent’s permission to apply.

For more information, call Liberation Day Committee at 234-7942 or email ldcnmi@gmail.com. **(PR)**

FITIAL

From Page 1

Wiseman said.

Wiseman allowed Fitial to start serving the prison term at the Department of Corrections on or before July 6, 2015. The judge so ordered after Fitial’s counsel, Stephen Nutting, informed the court that the former governor needs to go back to the Philippines in the next few days for his ongoing medical rehabilitation/treatment.

Fitial refused to comment to the media about the sentence as he, with the aid of his wife Josefina and a walking cane, slowly emerged from the courtroom. He was smiling as family members and supporters greeted and comforted him.

Nutting stated that they are “very extremely disappointed.” He refused to elaborate.

Fitial remained calm on his seat when Wiseman announced the sentence during the hearing packed mostly with prominent persons, businessmen, former government officials, family members, and friends who supported the former chief executive.

In an interview after the sentencing, Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback said this is a testament to those people out there to step forward, speak up when they see instances of corruption within the government.

“It’s extremely difficult to get people to response to this type of things,” said Hasselback as he thanked investigators at the Department of Public Safety and OPA and people who provided testimony and information that led to investigation in this case.

Chief prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas said they’re very happy that jail term was imposed.

“I think we do need to send a message to the Commonwealth that these sorts of crimes will

not be tolerated,” Rapadas said.

Rapadas said to get a conviction and a jail sentence on the highest official of the Commonwealth sends a strong message to all government officials that they need to adhere to the ethics of their office.

“When you have the highest official not upholding the law, unfortunately corruption rolls down hill,” he added.

Fitial signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty last May 13 to two offenses, making him the first governor of the Commonwealth convicted of crimes.

The offense of misconduct in public office refers to the time when Fitial had his masseuse—a female Chinese who was at that time a federal prisoner at the Department of Corrections—temporarily released so she could massage him at his house on Jan. 8, 2010.

The conspiracy to commit theft of services refers to Fitial’s role in former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham’s efforts to evade lawful service of process during his departure from the Commonwealth at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on Aug. 3 or 4, 2012.

For the crime of conspiracy to commit theft of services, Wiseman sentenced the defendant to the maximum term of five years in jail.

Wiseman noted that in view of several and significant mitigating circumstances and for those reasons only, he suspends all except one year and the maximum fine of \$5,000.

For the crime of misconduct in public office, the judge sentenced Fitial to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for 30 days, to run concurrent with the sentence in the other offense and the maximum fine of \$1,000.

It means that Fitial’s actual total prison term is one year.

Upon completing the prison

term, the former governor will be placed on probation for one year. He will be permanently barred from re-employment directly or indirectly with the CNMI government.

Before the sentence was handed down, Fitial was allowed to speak.

“I ask for forgiveness for breaking the law,” said Fitial as he begged Wiseman to give him “just and merciful considerations.”

The former governor thanked the people who wrote letters in support of him. He apologized to his family and friends, who stood by him all throughout the years, for the wrong acts that he did.

In sentencing Fitial, Wiseman noted defendant’s acceptance of responsibility for his actions by pleading guilty to the charges and by making sincere and profound remorseful statement to the court.

Wiseman also noted defendant’s many decades of public service and achievements, many of which were in the public interest.

The judge said Fitial is 69 and in imperfect health.

However, Wiseman said, there are many others of advanced years who suffer from some medical ailment who got to prison including governors of various states.

As to the crime of misconduct in public office, Wiseman said Fitial’s acts demonstrated a flagrant display of abuse of authority.

Wiseman said on the eve of his inauguration, Fitial ordered the release of his personal masseuse, a federal prisoner at the time, from a detention facility, Department of Corrections, late at night and had her transported to his residence for a personal massage.

Wiseman said Fitial claims he was in agonizing pain which was witnessed by his attorney general at that time (not Buckingham) and that the masseuse

was the one he used for some time to get relief from his pain.

As to the crime of conspiracy to commit theft services, Wiseman said Fitial’s acts demonstrated blatant arrogance, unbefitting of the highest office of government.

“The defendant treated the time, money, and resources of the CNMI’s law enforcement agencies as his own private property and dispatched the good men and women who serve our community away from their duties to protect the public with the express purpose of breaking the law,” he said.

Wiseman said that, on Aug. 13, 2012, when OPA filed criminal charges against Buckingham, Fitial orchestrated a coordinated effort to actively interfere with the ongoing criminal process.

Wiseman said in the course of 85 phone calls and messages between Fitial, police authorities, and other members of the conspiracy, the defendant was like a screenwriter, producer, and director of a movie with an elaborate plot to employ armed police officers to escort Buckingham to the airport at the very crack of dawn in order to avoid service of a penal summons.

The judge said Fitial even instructed his personal bodyguard by cell phone to shield Buckingham from FBI agents who were merely exercising their official duty to serve a penal summons.

“Unfortunately, this was not a movie, but real life,” Wiseman pointed out.

The judge said Fitial argues that the only personal benefit he received from all these events was the massage therapy he received from the prisoner he summoned from federal detention at DOC.

“However, I think the position that ought to be appropriate, in this matter is not how you measure what happened here in the value of money, property or

other personal benefit, but rather the harm to the erosion of public trust in government,” he said.

Wiseman said he takes Fitial’s serious medical condition into account in sentencing, but cannot allow the matter of the defendant’s health to depreciate the seriousness of his offenses.

“The public’s perception of sentencing is a crucial factor in its overall perception of the justice system,” he said.

Wiseman said good works do not offset criminal misconduct, though they may mitigate it.

Wiseman said based on the original 13 charges filed against Fitial, they represented that perhaps the defendant was responsible for a culture of ethical failure in his office.

The judge said the crimes committed in this case were grave.

Wiseman said consigning someone to prison, in particular Fitial, who he has known for almost four decades in many personal, professional and social capacities; or any other defendant, “is a very difficult and sad necessity.”

Wiseman said there are impulses of avoidance from time to time—toward a personally gratifying leniency or toward an opposite extreme.

“But there is, obviously, no place for private impulse in the judgment of the court. The course of justice must be sought with such objective rationality as we can muster, tempered with mercy, but obedient to the law,” he said.

Fitial served as House speaker of the 3rd, 12th, and 14th legislatures. He is also a two-term governor. He resigned as governor on Feb. 20, 2013, days after the House of Representatives impeached him on charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

After he resigned, Fitial has been staying in the Philippines, where he is undergoing medical rehabilitation due to diabetes

complication.

Fitial requested for a lenient sentence of no prison term.

Nutting recommended that if the court determines a term of imprisonment be imposed, that it be suspended sentence in its entirety, on the condition that Fitial pay an appropriate fine, and restitution to for any loss to the government which might be proven for the crimes he now stands to answer for.

Hasselback, who is serving as a special prosecutor in the case, recommended a sentence of five years imprisonment, all suspended except for two years with no possibility of parole, a fine of \$5,000 and a 10-year ban on employment with the CNMI government.

Rapadas recommended a one-year sentence to be served at the Department of Corrections, with such sentence to be served consecutively to any sentence imposed for count seven conspiracy to commit theft of services. Rapadas asked the court to impose a fine, with the amount at the court’s discretion.

Nutting reiterated his sentencing memorandum that Fitial, although a part of the conspiracy to give Buckingham an escort to the Saipan International Airport, gained no benefit from that conspiracy.

To the contrary, Nutting said, Fitial voluntarily returned to the CNMI to answer the charges, sparing the CNMI the expense of seeing extradition.

He said unlike Buckingham, Fitial has accepted responsibility for his actions and has spared the CNMI the expense of a lengthy and highly publicized trial, and the possible appeals which might follow.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Buckingham guilty of six charges and imposed a suspended sentence, citing the former AG’s service to the CNMI, his age, and medical issues.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

GetFitCNMI's Joey Tudela inspired members of Rotary Club Saipan at their meeting in Hyatt Regency Saipan to lead a more active lifestyle through cross fit training.

GetFitCNMI inspires community to become active

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In their own way, GetFitCNMI said they are helping the community toward better living.

Joey Tudela of GetFitCNMI spoke at the Rotary Club Saipan's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday to inspire the club toward an active lifestyle.

"The CNMI, or all of Micronesia, is known for NCDs or non-communicable diseases," Tudela said.

"We stated GetFitCNMI not thinking of that yet, but now that we're four years deep into it, we've extended our program to help people with these NCDs," he added.

According to Tudela, they have been partnering with Commonwealth Health Center for their programs and supporting community activities with regards to health and sports.

GetFitCNMI, unlike other gyms on island, offers cross fit training. Tudela believes it is effective and safe not only because of the trainers that are always there during sessions but also because "functional movements" are utilized for workouts.

"We train people to do everyday things in life," Tudela said, "we just constantly build people up and make them stronger and live life every day."

Workouts, he said, last from

five minutes to 30 minutes.

With Tudela at the meeting was Jamal Sablan, who has multiple epiphyseal dysplasia. He had hip surgeries when he was young but still had difficulty moving. However, because of his workouts at GetFitCNMI, he can function and move more easily.

"Cross fit really changed me. First time I went there I was in pain, but I knew it was worth it. I used to weigh like 195 lbs. now I'm 139. I used to wake up every morning feeling pain in my hips, in my knees," Sablan said.

"When I joined cross fit, I got better. I could carry heavy loads of stuff," he added.

He said cross fit is about the quality of training, not the quantity, and that it can change other people as well.

Tudela also made J.J. Teno-rio an example of how cross fit training along with a healthy diet plan works. In just a year, this client of Tudela lost more than 100 lbs.

Asked what the Rotary can do for their organization, Tudela said all they have to do is go to the gym.

"Just come in and experience what cross fit is first. Get your feet wet and get to know the community," Tudela said.

"That's the biggest thing about cross fit, the community and the people coming in from all walks of life," he added.

Man receives 25-day prison term for shouting profanities

A man was slapped with a 25-day prison term for shouting profanities at a man, causing the latter to call the police for assistance.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Kurt Borja King to the maximum of six months in prison, all suspended except 25 days.

Camacho gave King credit for 25 days of time served.

Camacho said the remainder of the sentence may be imposed in whole or in part for violation of law or Office of the Adult Probation rules.

King was placed on supervised probation for one year, was required to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court costs and \$100 in probation fee, and perform 50 hours of community work service.

During the probationary

period, the defendant is not allowed to consume any alcoholic beverages or use controlled substances.

The Office of the Attorney General charged King with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

King signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace. As part of the plea agreement, assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda moved to dismiss the remaining charge. The court granted the motion.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on April 9, 2015, on Saipan, King shouted profanities at Joseph K. Leon Guerrero, causing the latter to call for police assistance.

Camacho noted that King has two prior criminal cases, but he was acquitted in one. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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IT&E

Jurors start deliberating in Ada trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal jury began yesterday afternoon deliberating whether or not Leyda I. Ada is guilty or not as to the charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering, money laundering, and perjury.

The jurors will continue their deliberations today, Thursday.

The deliberations commenced after the prosecution and the defense completed their closing arguments.

In the U.S. government's closing arguments, Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe told the jurors that they presented sufficient evidence to find Ada

guilty of all charges.

Backe said the key issue in this case is Ada's knowledge in her husband Melvin's scheme to perpetrate healthcare fraud.

Showing documents in the monitors, Backe said that, on June 17, 2014, Ada obtained a business license from the Department of Finance for a sole proprietorship with "MMS, CNMI."

The prosecutor then presented documents how checks for payments of purchases of supply for MMS from CHC ended up in



Ada

Melvin's mailbox.

Backe said Ada used the business license to open a business savings account at First Hawaiian Bank in the name of "Leyda I. Ada dba MMS, CNMI" on Oct. 1, 2004.

The prosecutor said 53 Treasury checks in total amount of \$1.7 million made out to "MMS" ended up in that FHB savings account that Ada helped to open.

Backe said of \$1,941,291.25 that Melvin stole, \$1,060,650 was directly transferred to the couple's accounts.

Backe said that's not evidence that Ada was kept in the dark or was tricked by Melvin.

"That's called sharing with partner in crimes," he said.

Backe also pointed out that the couple made \$400,000 in ATM withdrawals.

He also cited that Ada issued numerous checks to Golden Poker from 2005 to 2007.

Backe also showed several checks, bank records, and other documents as evidence that immediately after Melvin stopped

reporting to work at the Commonwealth Health Center on July 5, 2011, he and Ada, assisted by others, conducted a series of financial transactions to conceal the proceeds from the healthcare fraud and embezzlement.

Backe showed documents and cited witnesses' accounts regarding the couple's closed out of six bank accounts at three banks between July 5, 2011 and August 11, 2011.

He said that on July 5, 2011, the couple made 16 ATM withdrawals from five bank accounts.

Backe said it's to cover up so Melvin transferred the ownership of four cars in one day to Ada's family members and relatives.

Backe said the next plan was to transfer the couple's businesses.

For the perjury charge, the prosecutor said in her attempt to get court-appointed counsel, Ada filled out a form given by the U.S. Probation Office that she was not employed at that time.

Backe said it was a lie because at that time when she was arrested, Ada was the chief executive officer of Island Trendz.

The prosecutor said Ada also checked a box indicating that she did not have any cash on hand

or money in savings or checking accounts, when in fact, she had \$4,000 in cash in her personal clothing drawer at her house and had access to two bank accounts at First Hawaiian Bank.

In Ada's closing arguments, defense attorney Mark Hanson said the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of all charges.

Hanson said in this case, since Ada is the wife of Melvin, she got to be guilty.

"You could be guilty because you're the wife," Hanson said. "Leyda Ada didn't know anything."

Hanson said as he predicted in the beginning of the trial, no person knew that Melvin was stealing close to \$2 million from Finance, through CHC.

Citing the testimony of all

U.S. government's more than 30 witnesses, the defense counsel pointed out that not one of them knew that Melvin was stealing money.

On numerous ATM withdrawals, Hanson said Melvin had access to Ada's account.

Hanson asked why the prosecution did not call any witness that Ada went to the postal box to pick up checks.

On the perjury charge, Hanson said it was an innocent mistake on Ada's part.

Hanson said when Ada signed the form, she could not think well because she was arrested at that time.

Hanson showed a painting that has a drawing of a shark named Melvin.

"Remember Melvin the shark," said Hanson in concluding his arguments.

» Defense: Remember Melvin the shark

Lawmakers start budget deliberations

Lawmakers this week have started deliberations on the government's fiscal year 2016 budget allocations for its various departments.

According to Rep Antonio P. Sablan Sablan (Ind-Saipan), head of



Sablan

the House Committee on Ways and Means, the deliberations will hopefully end this week and will be readied for presentation to other members of the House in a session.

Sablan said right now, the committee members are looking at the personnel requirements of the various departments, as well as possible sources of budget allocations on the balance sheets.

Just like the budget hearings, some of the bigger departments will be prioritized.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said after the deliberations, the com-

mittee head will then file an Appropriations Act, or the "budget bill" for submission and review.

The deliberations are being held throughout this week, while a House session is expected to be scheduled

next week.

Back in April, the Governor's Office submitted a \$145.8-million government budget for fiscal year 2016.

After initial review of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Sablan said the budget requests of government departments and their respective activities exceeded the \$145.8-million proposed budget by \$38.7 million.

Lawmakers expect that not all the departments' "wish list" on their budgets will be granted.

(Joel Pinaroc)

Concerns for kingfisher delay Guam military buildup plan

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The final supplemental environmental impact statement for a military buildup on Guam has been promised for this summer, but concerns about the Micronesian kingfisher are delaying the report.

The Pacific Daily News reports that the federal Wildlife Service remains in talks with Pentagon representatives about how to assure habitat preservation.

The kingfisher population in Guam was federally listed as an endangered species in 1984, but by 1988 was close to becoming extinct. Although the bird is believed to be extinct in the wild on Guam, kingfishers are being cared for in captivity with a plan to reintroduce the birds to their habitat.

The Record of Decisions is expected June 26 and is said to be the last procedural step before construction projects to relocate about 5,000 Marines from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam can begin.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2015-CDA-05-RFP

Closing Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"FINANCIAL & COMPLIANCE AUDIT – FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2016"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposal in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO Acting Executive Director /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP15-DPL-070
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 28, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO COMPLETE A CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

The complete Scope of Work may be picked up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled on **July 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., local time** at the DPL, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing by email to **Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary of Public Lands** at **pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp** no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, July 17, 2015.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ PEDRO A. TENORIO Secretary of Public Lands /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, June 26, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- Preliminary**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
- Public Comments¹**
- Reports**
 - Chair
 - Board Committees
 - CIP
 - FPA
 - ISA
 - LIA
 - SARC
 - SICPP
 - Commissioner of Education
 - Financial Status Reports
 - Federal
 - Local
 - Head Start Program Report
 - Other matters
- Unfinished Business**
- New Business**
 - Annual Reports – SY2013-2014
 - JROTC
 - Head Start Program
 - Proposed Policies:
 - Pay Differential
 - Morale, Welfare and Recreation
 - Technology Plan 2016-2018
 - Technology Rural Development Grant
 - USDA Distance Education and Telemedicine Grant Application
 - School Breakfast and Lunch Menu – SY2015-2016
 - Interim Financing for Rural Development Loan
 - CUC Payment
 - BOE/PSS Comments to House Bill Nos. 19-10, 19-66, 19-67, 19-68
 - Certification and Licensure Matters
 - CLO Report No. 2015-004
 - CLO Report No. 2015-005
- Executive Session²**
 - Legal Updates
 - Personnel/Certification
 - Other matters
- Administrative Matters**
- Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- Adjournment**

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR MOWER TO ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA
INVITATION FOR BID
CPA-IFB-006-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor Mower for the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package is available beginning May 22nd, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: "Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-006-15. CONFIDENTIAL"

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, June 26, 2015**. Bids will be opened at 3:00 P.M., June 26, 2015 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor – Departures Building.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to **atudela@cpa.gov.mp** (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than June 22, 2015. **Any question or clarification will not be entertained after June 22, 2015.** Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

Name: Ignacia U. Igisaiair
P.O. Box 501824 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 789-9087

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF GERALDINE U. IGISAIAIR
An Incompetent

by
IGNACIA U. IGISAIAIR
Petitioner

FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0269

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Ignacia U. Igisaiair, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth L. Govendo on the 9th day of July, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Family donates to *man'amko*

A family recently made a donation to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council.

A \$1,000 donation was given by Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz, D.V.M., his wife Mrs. Victoria

F. Dela Cruz, and their family to SSAC at the Office on Aging in Chinatown yesterday.

"Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts. The *man'amko* will be so happy,"

SSAC president Maria T. Salinas said.

According to Aging director Walter Manglona, the fund is not only for the council itself. He said it will be used to sup-

port special programs or projects that the *man'amko* will be doing in the future.

It can also be used to purchase things the clients need at the center.

Manglona added that he is thankful for the donation. He said they don't really go

out and solicit for money, so those who give to the *man'amko* do so with good will and generosity.

"We are truly grateful for the donation and we appreciate the kind generosity from Dr. Dela Cruz and his family," Manglona said.

Others who were present at the donation were OoA's Adela Capati, Margaret Aldan, Maria Wanket, Orlando Limes, and Rudy Sablan.

The Ignacio family also donated \$1,000 to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this month. *(Frauline S. Villanueva)*

Public hearing for BSI casino resort tonight

The public hearing for Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s proposed 14-story casino resort in the heart of Garapan is set for tonight, June 25, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The hearing at 5pm is held by regulatory agencies to gather public input on the proposed development.

The Division of Coastal Resources Management certified BSI's major siting application complete earlier this month.

BSI's proposed development is called the "Grand Marianas

Casino Resort."

According to their application, BSI projects that out of a total 650 staff, there will be a required 423 local workers in business years one and two.

In year three, out of a projected total of 1,500 workers, BSI will be required to have 975 locals working. BSI projects this number to grow to 1,138 locals working in year four, out a total 1,750 workers. In year five, this increases to 1,219 local workers out of 1,875 workers total.

From business year six to seven, BSI would be required

to have 1,300 locals employed out of their total 2,000 projected employees.

For tax revenues, BSI projects tax revenues associated with the proposed casino facility to be \$55,940,522, \$79,141,780, and \$80,205,815, for years 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively.

Calculating CNMI and FICA taxes and employer payroll tax, BSI estimates \$10,367,136, \$10,781,821, and \$11,213,094 in total taxes to federal and the local government from 2017 to 2019, respectively. *(Dennis B. Chan)*

CUC aims to submit status report on vacant positions this week

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is aiming to turn in a report on how they will fill vacant senior management positions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by this week, according to executive director Alan Fletcher yesterday.

Earlier this month, EPA wrote to CUC requiring that they submit within 30 days a report on how it will fill its soon vacant executive director position, among other critical senior po-

sitions left vacant for years.

Fletcher is expected to leave his position from CUC before the end of the month.

When he does leave, CUC will have vacancies in four of the eight senior management positions required under Stipulated Order No. 1—the executive director, deputy executive director, division manager for drinking water and wastewater, and the technical manager for oil.

"As you know, these positions—and the important qualifications for these positions—were included in the Stipulated Order to reverse longstanding compliance and public health issues at CUC stemming in great part from the lack of qualified management operating the public utility," the EPA wrote.

"The loss of qualified senior managers in half of the key positions is alarming," EPA said. *(Dennis B. Chan)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz and his family donated \$1,000 to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council yesterday. The fund will be used for the needs and activities of the *man'amko*.

WORLD RESORT

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For more information, please visit <http://www.preventcancer.org>

For more information in the CNMI, please contact the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at (670) 236-8727/8.



This Ad was brought to you by CHCC Comprehensive Cancer Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non Communicable Disease Bureau through 100% federal funding from the Center for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC).



CHCC employees complete epidemiology training

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Staff from both the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.’s Division of Public Health and the Commonwealth Health Center have completed training in epidemiology and data collection and were presented with certifi-

cates of completion on Tuesday. The course that they completed will assist them in carrying out their core job functions. The course ran for two hours on workdays and started in May. Participants received 40 hours of training in how to better collect data on disease rates in the CNMI using epidemio-

logical principles. Epidemiology is the study of disease and its causes in a population, and is an essential function of a public health agency. Staff who completed the course include: Lillian Bennett, Normita Cabalbag, Nancy D. Fernandez, Helen Harding, Gracia A. Laxina, Amber Lynn

Mendiloa, Kaitlyn Neises-Mo-canu, Wilbert Rospel, Leiana Saures, and Joey Songsong. DPH currently has an epidemiology team headed by a recently hired epidemiologist from Australia. The course was designed to help staff become better at carrying out data collection and analysis in the

CNMI as a means of developing stronger interventions to protect the health and wellbeing of all residents. Also included in the course are nurses and quality managers from the hospital who are learning how to use epidemiology and data collection methods to better care for hospital patients.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said that Brian P. Mangum, an assistant professor of Fiji National University, taught the month-long course and was paid for by the Pacific Island’s Health Officers Association.

“This is one of the benefits of being a PIHOA and I am a secretary and treasurer for PIHOA’s board and we make resolutions twice a year and one of the things that jurisdiction expresses their concerns and one of them of course is quality care, and Mangum was picked by PIHOA to teach the course and he has been here before,” Muna said.

Mangum said that it is an exciting opportunity for staff from both public health and the hospital to learn more about how epidemiology and the collection of quality data can help them better serve the.

“The staff at CHCC are dedicated to serving the CNMI, and their participation in this course

demonstrates that commitment,” Mangum said.

Margarita T. Aldan, director of the DPH Services, said that the opportunity for public health and hospital staff to participate in this training will help them to understand and recognize that clinical and public health services have to work together to ensure improved population health from ensuring collection of quality data to developing actions/interventions.

Mendiola, CHC staff, said that she took the course twice already and wanted to take it again to better understand the subject. She said she enjoyed Mangum’s past teaching skills and is dedicated to improving quality care in the hospital.

She said she enjoyed the interaction not just of staff from DPH but other departments under CHCC who attended the course.

This is the second continuing professional development course taught to CHCC staff, with the first having been delivered in 2013 on the topic of the Ten Essential Public Health Functions.

The seven-week course is a joint effort of CHCC, DPH, Fiji National University, PIHOA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tenorio, Neal to speak at June SHRM meeting

Maisie Tenorio, executive director for the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, and Attorney Shelli Neal, former CNMI chief prosecutor, will be the co-speakers at the NMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management’s June general membership meeting.

Their topic of “Domestic Violence and the Workplace” is a highly relevant topic to

the Human Resource professionals and managers who face the question of “what to do” for the victim and with the perpetrator on an all too frequent basis. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley’s on Thursday, June 25, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Tenorio, with Bachelor’s Degrees in both Psychology and Human Development & Family Sciences from Oregon

State University, has worked in various human service capacities over the years, to include as the coordinator for the Family Court Division of the CNMI Superior Court. Tenorio was a founding member of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and served as its board chair for two years, prior to becoming the executive director in 2009.

“I have a deep love for my community,” Tenorio states, “and a strong commitment to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI and throughout the pacific region. I believe our community has the strength to overcome these problems and create spaces where everyone feels safe, respected, and loved.”

Neal has a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Texas and 19 years of legal experience in criminal prosecution with a specialty is domestic and sexual violence cases. She served for four years with the CNMI Attorney General’s Office, rising to the position of chief prosecutor.

With her experience, Neal advises that “Domestic and sexual violence is a serious, complicated and prevalent issue in the CNMI. I’m glad to be part of a community-wide

effort to combat it here. We’ve actually made a lot of progress in the last few years with increased outreach, funding, education and accountability. Still, we obviously have a lot of work left to do.”

The SHRM presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and HR professionals and staff to gain information and to discuss a difficult situation that we all eventually face in our workplaces. SHRM said their speakers will focus on domestic violence in general and how it may impact the workplace, what employers can do to help employees who are living with abuse, safety concerns, and what to do when employees are abusers/offenders. They will also talk about the new “Anti-Violence Leave Act.” The program will discuss workplace, social, and legal aspects of domestic violence.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuvera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (*SHRM*)

CUC to update tank, pipeline projects with Carter today

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials will meet with a federal judge today to provide an update on their court-ordered tank and pipeline projects.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter is expected to be available over teleconference at the U.S. District court today.

According to CUC public information officer Brad Ruszala yesterday, this meeting is over tank and pipeline projects from court-stipulated order No. 2.

The meeting, or status conference, is one CUC continues to hold for the stipulated or-

ders the federal court signed CUC in 2009, setting the requirements and deadlines for the utilities agency to meet. The orders represent an agreement between the CNMI and the EPA on how CUC will come into compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

During a status conference last month, CUC reported potential defective welding is holding up CUC’s court-ordered Tank 102 project. CUC said X-rays were taken of these weldings to assess their conditions. (*Den-nis B. Chan*)

DPW Channel Bridge red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged DPW Channel Bridge on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (en-

terococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan’s recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (*DEQ*)

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, July 2nd, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg. (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 6/25/15 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2015-2209: H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2014-1106 for Hotel, to include a restaurant, additional rooms, and a revised parking layout. This project is situated on TR 21073, 21074, and lot 104 D 04, on Beach Road, Garapan, across from I Love Saipan. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Conditional Use Application #2015-2341: Saipan Adventure Tours LLC is proposing to operate a skydiving or parachuting activities which include jumping from the plane at selected elevations between 7,000ft to 14,000ft. with tandem instructors. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The take-off point will be from the Saipan International Airport, and the landing area is proposed to be on Lot #502 NEW-REM in Dandan, behind Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communications

D. Old Business

1. The Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act

E. New Business

1. Zoning Budget
2. Office Operations Report (permits/ enforcement)
3. Introduction of new personnel (Zoning Planner & Zoning Enforcement Technician)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogomoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
H.S. Lee Construction Company

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit #2014-1106 for Hotel, to include a restaurant, additional rooms, and a revised parking layout. This project is situated on TR 21073, 21074, and lot 104 D 04, on Beach Road, Garapan, across from I Love Saipan. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: July 2nd, 2015, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, July 1st, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan Adventure Tours, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Adventure Tours LLC is proposing to operate skydiving or parachuting activities which include jumping from the plane at selected elevations between 7,000ft to 14,000ft. with tandem instructors. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The take-off point will be from the Saipan International Airport, and the landing area is proposed to be on Lot #502 NEW-REM in Dandan, behind Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: July 2nd, 2015, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, July 1st, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman



2015 CNMI LIBERATION FESTIVITIES

добро пожаловать

Kumosta

Hafadai

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welcome

ようこそ

Tirow Wòòmi

2015.6.27 - 8.16

PEACE IN DIVERSITY

Liberate yourself this summer! Immerse yourself in the nightly sights, sounds, and tasty flavors of the 2015 Liberation Day Festival and win cool prizes. Come out on July 4th and see who will be the 2015 Ms. Liberation, which awesome float will bag the

\$4,000 dollar prize,

and who will bag the

\$10,000 dollar 2015 Liberation Day raffle prize!

Food, drinks, games, entertainment, and fabulous prizes, the 2015 Liberation Day Festival has it so come on down!

2015 CNMI Talent Fest

Audition date: **July 5, 2015**

Start date: **July 9, 2015**

Final: **August 16, 2015**

Voting channel: **SMS**

Venue: **Garapan Fishing Base**

Application method: **ldcnmi@gmail.com**



@CNMI2015



@CNMILIBERATIONDAY2015



2015 Liberation Day Festival



weibo 塞班-塞班

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 125Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

Estau politikan iya Guahan

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

I asuntun politikan iya Guahan gaige plantau gi plaset pubiku. Lau “lumalailai” pot taya’ fitme disision para umapetsige madiskute i asuntu. Pot mas ke bente años maletke. Taya’ inakonfotma haf’ propiu manera `nai mauleg mapresenta haf’ estau siha ni siña madiskute ni tautau.

I puntu gi este na asuntu pot dignun Chamorun iya Guahan. Sin disposision siempre u lailai ta’ lu i asuntu `nai uttimoña man-afaisen hit haf’ guaha lau hita mismu lumetke.

Debi u guaha offisiat na ginagau dispensu ginen España yan America pot umabende i dos tautau yan tanu’ sin konsiderasion dignun natibu. Kau magahet na mapo’ lu i natibu kumu esklabu ni tai dignu?

Kau guaka i Chamoru na mapega kulan ga’ ga’ guatu giya matansa dispues de mabenden ñaihon? Na ti manparehu hit tautau? Presisu na uma-insiste offisiat na ginagau dispensasion ya umanana’ lu i salape guatu gi tautau Guahan. Chegue este antes de u guaha fotmat na negosiu.

Presisu na u uma-esgaihon este na asuntu gi primet appottunadat. Gigon guaha fitme disision pot estau politika siempre u tutuhongue’ areglu siha gi primet eksision para u gobiernan maisague’ i natibu. Siña ha’ ti todú in’ chile’ haf’ guinifen miyu lau estaya guaha tinituhon disposision futtunan natibu.

I sisteman operasion gobiernamenton demokrasia mampos anaku’ yan fedda’ plasetña. Ayu siha na asuntu i debi u fan mana’ finu gi relasion federat yan Guahan u fan anog gi karera mona. Solu hilu’ plaset inakonfotma `nai siña mapetsige haf’ debi u mana’ fan finu. Gi pa’ gu taya’ pisu para i natibu `nai siña umapu’ soluke tai bali na pahinan gaseta.

Debi umasatba i asuntu ke umana’ lailai ta’ lu otrú bente años!

Fangualu`an yan peska

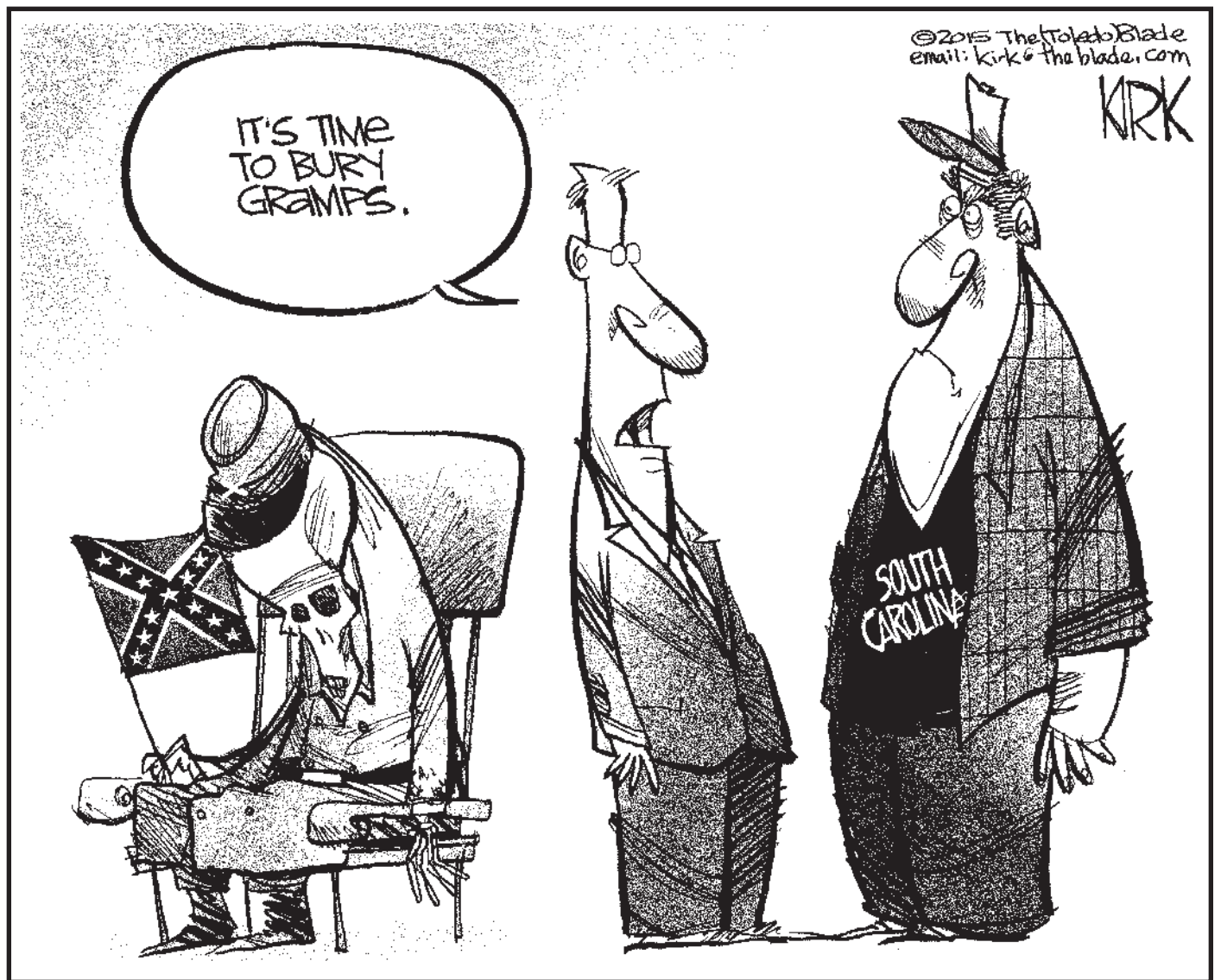
Gi todú atmos banda—Guahan yan Marianas—sessu tabira hit tatte che’ chu’ fangualu`an yan peskan tasi. Hafa este ha fanunu’ e hit gi kada biahe na mapua `sino guaha adelantu gi ekonomian i tanu’? Tradision tanu’ deste antigú na tiempu ni inestablesen guelu gi che’ chu’ fangualu`an yan sulu’ tasi. Estague’ na pisu `nai gaige tinituhon-ta.

Na`magof i lumala’ tatte i dos pisun tradision giya Guahan. Guaha metkau para todú finacho`chu’ gualu’ yan tasi parehu ha’ kusanin kometsiante (restautants) yan industriar turista. Dañikulu na ayudu `nai sinede fangualuan yan peskadot mametkau produktun niha. Gi tiempun eskases `nai basnag i ekonomia ti magtos nesesisat resturan yan hotels siha gi usun golai yan guihan.

Gi sankattan na Marianas, fitme na pisu i dos offisiu piot pa’ gu `nai sumen bahu kinalamten ekonomian i tanu’. Alakuenta, kada in’ sifa’ I mattiñgan in’ falague gualu’ yan fisga para mantension familia. Estague’ `nai gaige tradision linala’ natibu kau modetnu i tiempu ni tafafana’. Gaige gi edda’ yan tasi i pisun linala’ta.

Areglun Federat

Guaha siha areglun federat espesiatmiente pot totchen natibu ni halachai dumispone sin satton yan kabales na inestudia. Ti matulaika disposision niha sa’ tafatkeluye kulan mohon Dies Na Tinagu’

See **ESTAU** on Next Page

Culturally black and racially human

I do not know where I got the above phrase; perhaps, from the beleaguered Rachel Dolezal of Spokane, chastised by members of her own family for appearing and insinuating that she was of African-American descent when in fact her heritage comes from Czech, German, and Swedish lines, definitely Caucasian. Consequently, due to furor, she resigned as the executive director of the local NAACP office.

It was clear in the later pronouncements of MLK, Jr., that racial prejudice is more than just against the color of one’s skin though critical impetus of the Civil Rights movement. In fact, if I heard him right, he was moving away from the racial issue into the “civil rights” issue, a bit more extensive than just the color of one’s skin. The problem with racial and skin color definitions is the percentage of blood being claimed, and we know in the CNMI that determining 12.5 blood heritage to claim being an indigene for property ownership, is at best, iffy.

I attended U.S. schools on the second half of the ’60s, marched with Dr. King and others in a War on Poverty against the War in Vietnam from the WH to Arlington Cemetery just a month before he bit the bullet on a Memphis veranda, and of IndoMalay skin coloration, I’ve found myself a couple of times on the wrong side of the soda counter, or, tolerated but ignored in California. I finally secured the bluebook in Guam ’84 after being detained at many immigration points for not bothering to apply for citizenship almost a decade when I qualified.

Well, we’ve grown as a nation and elected an intelligent half Kansas Brit descent, half Kenyan, to the Oval Office, one who had effectively parried racial undertones of political criticisms and parleyed charm to characterize his watch over a nation in decline.

While in the Piedmont, I served a local church where two Kluxmen refused to remember my name and just called me “Mr. Jones,” so I called them “Mr. Smiths” in turn. For a year, we gamely went through that ritual, finally ending in a flesh-touch of a handshake, first avoided when my extended hand was left hanging; their ladies asked my wife why I did not have enough cultural sense to tuck my shirt, a barong tagalog.

There were no shortages of white hotheads in my neighborhood in the Piedmont of folks with kin in Appalachia. They all had guns, sportingly hunted ducks in the fall and deer in the winter, complaining that it was no longer comfortable being white at the Woolworth soda counters that allowed “niggers” to be served as a consequence of sit-ins to declare that being “separate is not equal.”

Now Dylann Storm Roof, receiving a gun for his 21st birthday, prayed an hour with the congregation at the historic Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and after 9pm, drew his gun, fatally shooting nine and wounding three. He taunted his victims:

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

“You rape our women. You’ve taken over the country; this must be done.” The guy wanted to restart the U.S. Civil War, but he might have symbolically ended it. The confederacy flag that flew over SC’s capitol for 15 years is finally coming down, and WalMart just decided to ban its image in products it sells.

Jon Stewart, retiring night showman, skipped humor in his signature monologue and decried with deep sadness and grief the tragedy in Charleston, though he did say, pun intended, that the matter was clearly “black and white.” The victim’s families at Roof’s arraignment, clearly in grief, nevertheless, managed to forgive.

Forgiveness is more than just a sentiment. It is the reality that whatever Roof did, it is done, finis, kaput. There is no way to undo what has occurred, and as the favorite Nigger in the White House recently said, Charleston represents more than 200 years of history and we are just starting to face up to a reality.

The widely-respected Booker T. Washington, funded by Carnegie’s steel wealth, opposed Du Bois’ movement to legally attain civil rights, and the mild-mannered gentleman from Virginia, identified with the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, promoted gradual advancement through “entrepreneurship and education.” Booker’s middle name is “Taliaferro,” Italian for “metalsmith,” is a prominent name in Virginia, which he might have gotten by DNA, or adoption.

Which brings us back to being “culturally black and racially human.” If human evolution claims that we all evolved from the homo sapiens of West Africa, then we are, indeed, all ethnically “black,” choosing to be so is to be culturally “black.” Do we really care if Dolezal’s blood stream has 12.5 percent similarities with those of West Africa?

On the other hand, the lady with the finely and tightly braided hair who answers the phone with an African-American tone, and has culturally assimilated herself to the music of the Caribbean, with a mean hip thrust to show for it, does Uncle Tom really take exception to her wiles?

“Diversity” is the nature of our planet, of genes and memes, and seeing variation to *vive le* difference at the individual level is a treat. Culturally black and racially human is a choice, a solid taliaferro one!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Pentagon arrogance and presuppositions**

Dennis B. Chan's June 22, 2015 article "Scher believes military has submitted 'good range of training alternatives'" demonstrates just how arrogant Pentagon officials are when it comes to making public statements about the Mariana Islands and military desires. There are many reasons why the Pentagon is arrogant and here are some examples why this is so:

Say little and just parrot:

As stated in Mr. Chan's article, Robert M. Scher claims that the military has a "good range" of alternatives when it comes to training alternatives proposed for Tinian and Pagan. Using words like "good" deflect from what a range of alternatives is in the first place—a number that is supposed to be representative of complete thinking and complete creative problem solving for simulated war gaming in the Indo Asia Pacific region which is an area comprised of millions of square miles. Mr. Scher instead choose to parrot the Pentagon refrain by using opaque words such as 'good' which is an attempt to redirect the conversation by assigning a value judgment that make things unclear while at the same time, really saying nothing substantive or insightful. This is hallmark "Pentagon speak" that demonstrates bureaucratic institutional arrogance because it presupposes that villagers will somehow comply and accept the notion that live firing, training, and live bombing, even a little more of it, is up for negotiation and discussion.

Mr. Scher's use of the word "ad-hoc" represents more parroting because the use of this term does not demonstrate what specific issues are more important to anyone and it fails to provide any kind of sense of what villagers should expect from engaging in "ad-hoc" encounters. The fact that Mr. Scher uses these kinds of terms demonstrates just how little courage senior Pentagon leaders have when it comes to building a more complete and honest discussion with Chamorros and Carolinians because at the end of the day, more of the same language used by military officials means more of nothing for villagers.

Remain overly optimistic and choose sanitized words:

A second reason how Pentagon officials demonstrate arrogance is found by Mr. Scher's remarks when he states (referencing Guam) that "were able to come up with a compromise solution where both the people on the island and the U.S. military feel like we have a good solution for pursuing what all of us want..."

ESTAU

From Page 10

Yuus. Lau pot linala` natibu i chatdisposition.

Ma-impeña areglun mañgone` fanihe, hatgan yan ayuyu. Mad- iside na esta para umafnas na debi u guaha areglun tiempon peska `sino makone` este siha na totchen natibu. Lau magahet na hasan esta fanihe? Manu na lugat marikonose fuera ke ma-apotsu` ineppen niha? Guaha `nai ma-eñgulu` halom botkan iya Alimagan? Pat kau guaha `nai mabisita todú kanton unai todú islas guine pot hagan?

Hu a`atan este siha na areglu na mas gi para una fan manuño` hit na gaigegue` guine ya libianu ha dispone asuntun natibu de he- munos kau haf` hiassota. Lache este na heñiu. Hombre tatnai ta entalu`e siha pot mutuñgu na`niha kessu! Pa`gu para un` dispone pot fanihe ni mapepega kumu cha`ka?

Paluman aga giya Luta

Hu hassu `nai mattu un` señor ginen Fish & Wildlife iya Hawaii ya ilegña na debi u huchum mas ke tres sientus hektaria na tanu` giya Luta. Ti matmanyu` sumañgane na debi bai`n ali`e` yan magasña giya Washington. Esta chupon i prohimo.

Huna` tinatiye na ti ma-apuntayu` pot paluman aga na pot linala` i tautau siha parehu ha` residente yan fangualu` an. Kasse ha fagcha`e mañganiten tanu` gi finattoña ya piniloña na i aregloña para bai` tatiye. Hu lachai lumistaye hafa gaige gi kontratan i Covenant. Hi-hot ha kalamot i pusuelon kafe. Hu promesa na para bai` adiñgane ma` gasna giya Washington. Ti tuma`lu tatte Marianas.

I para ta gu`ot respetu ginen areglun federat debi tatuñgu` kabales haf` gaige gi papa` i kontrata. Ti kaprechun` niha para umatatiye soluke direchon natibu gumubietnan maisague`. Gi kada umentalu` ha utut direcho-ta. Chatmiyu mañeseha piot ya pelun kumekuentos ni pumopolu na mantai hinassu hit. Hombre iya amigo de pelun. Eyag manrespeta gi tautau tanu.`

If you look at the history of Guam, there were certain things we never thought about doing and they worked for everybody involved. I have every hope and expectation that we will get there for the CNMI." This statement is one of hubris because it does nothing to point to the fact that military activities will not protect the land, sea, undersea, sub-terrestrial, noise and informational environments, but will instead damage and destroy our ecosystem. It is also arrogant for Mr. Scher to reference Guam because it assumes that Guam groups are somehow monolithic in how they view and interpret the NEPA process and the specific outcomes of this process. Overly optimistic statements and carefully crafted use of sanitized words by Pentagon officials doesn't do anything to change hearts and minds of villagers when it comes to desires to damage or destroy Pagan and Tinian.

Stop presupposing anything:**The CNMI dilemma with the US military training exercises**

If I have to choose between allowing the U.S. military to use Tinian and Pagan for its live-fire training exercises, on one hand, and allowing Chinese nationals and businesses to use Saipan to operate casinos and other gambling operations, on the other, I would definitely choose the U.S. military—hands down. It's a no brainer.

The CNMI is an integral part of the United States. We are a part of the American political family and we are United States citizens. We receive hundreds of millions of dollars in federal grant monies over the years to provide public service for our people. The U.S. military provides for our national defense. So what is our response to the military when it plans to have military training exercises in the CNMI? Complete ingratitude. Before Department of Defense officials even have the opportunity to explain to our local leaders what they are planning to do, we begin throwing rocks at them. We begin making unfounded accusations against them. We begin making plans to sue them. Why? Because of environmental concerns, some say. But what about national security concerns? Shouldn't we be concerned about that much more?

Don't we realize that the world is still a dangerous place? Witness Putin's aggressive and unlawful annexation of Crimea in the Ukraine. When you have a despot like Putin running Russia with his finger on the "red button," shouldn't we be concerned? When you have China amassing its military and naval forces in the Far East, shouldn't we be concerned, out here in the Pacific? Maybe during times that are less foreboding, we

Workforce development

CNMI residents, are you aware that more than 60 percent of our generated revenue comes from employment?

I think if we work together with our investors, I believe we can develop the needed workforce. Below are some comments and opinion regarding our present workforce issues.

A consumer looking for a job in the job fair with very little skills might need a job with training with a reasonable salary that supports the amount of dependents he/she has.

If he is low income he probably needs some or all of the following—transportation, housing, caregiver, training with financial aide assistance program, and Nutrition Assistance Program.

Here in CNMI most local residents who are staying here don't have much skills and probably didn't attend college after high school due to financial issues, lack of needs, and some prefer trade education.

Because of this I would ask employers to make a job offer with training. Put out a vacancy announcement stating how many positions you're offering with the list of training you're providing, and the list of college education that you are looking for and see a guarantee that all positions will be filled.

Plus, the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and Employment Services would make training and education available for employers. I mean this publicity will provide NMC, the trade institute, and Applicant and Employment Ser-

If the Pentagon and its senior officials want to develop trust, specifically lasting trust with Chamorros and Carolinians, they need to first stop presupposing that if they just try hard enough and remain consistently engaged with villagers, that some how they will be able to change hearts and minds to convince Chamorros and Carolinians that plans to conduct live firing, live bombing and training are somehow not going to damage and destroy each island in question. Pentagon pressures unto villagers really expose just how badly the Pentagon and U.S. Pacific Command want the Mariana Islands. This puts villagers at a negotiating advantage because at the end of the day, the consent and approval of the community is paramount; otherwise disharmony and discord will amplify and sustain over time if Pagan is taken and if more training is conducted on Tinian.

Rick Perez

Hanover, New Hampshire

could ask the military to reconsider its plans for Tinian and Pagan. But all that it's asking now is to conduct live-fire training on these islands, not bombing the hell out of these islands and blasting them to pieces.

I have no problem with the fact that the military should comply with NEPA—the National Environmental Policy Act. This is the law. And if they are in compliance, then what is the problem? What is all the commotion being made by some of our people? What we need to do is to calm down and not let our emotions override our reason and common sense. We might even ask the military to help the CNMI with some of our CIP projects, such as the Tinian Breakwater Restoration Project, the Rota West Harbor Project, and so forth. We must also remember that for better or worse, the CNMI and Guam are a part of America's "first line of defense." Yes, that's what we are, even if nobody wants to say it out loud. The NMI Covenant was entered into by the United States, first and foremost, because of the strategic importance of the Northern Marianas to the U.S. If we still do not see this point, then we are really being naïve. Let us stop the thinking that some of us have that we are a freely associated state like Palau, the FSM, and the Marshalls. We are not. Those are independent countries. Our country is the United States.

Alexander "Colonel" Sablan

Dandan

vices with much needed information they are looking for.

Also, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service would also recognize the much-needed CW that is not available here and probably with this publicity, they might be able to listen to our economic cry for the much needed workforce development not available here by 2019.

Publicity with negative outcome and negative comments can affect employers and employees ability to find their needs.

The other important information that everyone is looking for is the salary for the position. The CNMI government needs to put out a minimum wage that is not competitive to that of private employer. What the government is doing now is really affecting workforce development. Our government needs to make sure that the salary of a secretary, administrative assistant, and all other positions be the same with that on the private sector. Make qualification requirements equal to that in the private employer.

If we do this, you can guarantee that by 2019 CNMI workforce development would increase by 60 percent or more. So members of the Legislature, governor, and everyone, for the sake of our economy, please do your part.

What do you think of this?

Winnie M. Atalig

San Jose, Tinian

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation near Mindanao across 7N130E through a weak circulation southwest of Chuuk near 6N147E then curves southeastward to end within a third circulation southeast of Pohnpei near 2N160E. Several areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Republic of Palau are south of a line from 9N130E to 4N146E and across Chuuk State from 12N to the equator from 147E to 157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae are within 75 miles of a line from 6N160E to 5N165E and near the equator within 40 miles of a line from 2N161E to 1N163E. A trade-wind disturbance is centered southeast of Majuro near 4N175E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between 7N and the equator from 169E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼49
Beijing	Showers	▲85	▼69
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼58
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼79
New York	Sunny	▲86	▼67
Osaka	Showers	▲84	▼72
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Pusan	Showers	▲78	▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼64
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲82	▼69
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲88	▼68

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
3:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:50 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	12:49 PM	12:21 AM
Friday	1:37 PM	12:59 AM
Saturday	2:25 PM	1:39 AM
Sunday	3:16 PM	2:22 AM
Monday	4:09 PM	3:07 AM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 28, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:45pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:45pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
			9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

Bridge Capital says it doesn't do business in Laos

Bridge Capital LLC came out with a media statement yesterday in reaction to a news report that its co-owner John K. Baldwin is under criminal and tax investigations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic for allegedly bribing Lao PDR officials over \$300,000.

The alleged bribe is said to have caused termination of an audit by Ernst & Young and also cost the Lao government \$70 million in lost tax revenue over a five-year period from the operations of Baldwin group's casino.

In the media release, Bridge Capital said it does not own Sanum Investments Limited or its parent company and does not do business in Laos. The company said it is being dragged into this as a way of harassing its owners and executives who are also associated with Sanum.

In 2012, the government of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic expropriated \$900 million worth of assets from Sanum. In response, Sanum and its parent company commenced international treaty arbitration claims against the

Laos (arbitration cases).

The claims in the arbitration cases are based, among other things, upon the illegal conduct of the Laos government in unilaterally seizing assets owned by Sanum and canceling valuable concessions granted to Sanum as well as actions taken by the Laos government, through its officials, police, courts, and army, to expropriate and confiscate Sanum's assets, including seizing the Savan Vegas Casino and Resort located in Savannakhet, Laos.

In the past two months, the Laos government has forcibly and illegally seized over \$250 million of Sanum's remaining assets in the country and is attempting to deflect attention from its actions by attacking Sanum and its executives. The Laos government is alleging baseless and false charges in an attempt to justify its illegal actions and to threaten and scare its foreign investors into submission. These baseless accusations were rejected more than a year ago in the arbitration cases by an international

tribunal which ruled, when presented with the very same sort of allegations the Laos government is raising here, that the Laos government "does not purport to have proof of corruption." Afterwards, Laos agreed in writing to cease and withdraw all such allegations. These false claims are the work

of a corrupt communist government that has lured Sanum and other foreigners to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into Laos only to seize those businesses and assets after the foreigners have built them into successful enterprises.

Still more frightening is what happens to people who challenge

Laos. For example, there is still no information about the fate of Sombath Somphone, a Laotian development worker advocating civil rights, who was last seen on video on Dec. 15, 2012, being bundled into a car at a police checkpoint in Vientiane. He has not been heard from since.

Sanum categorically denies

the unsupported allegations made by Laos in its filing in the CNMI Federal District Court and are confident that the charges will be shown for what they are: completely baseless. Sanum will not be intimidated by a communist regime that ranks among the highest in corruption. *(Bridge Capital)*

CHC seeks fellow for Prevention Fellowship Program

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations, and Center for Substance Abuse Prevention is accepting applications for the two-year Prevention Fellowship Program.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther L. Muna, one slot is open at CHCC for the program. The recipient, she said, will be mentored by Dr. Glenda George-Concepcion

Muna explained that the

CNMI has been a part of the program since its inception in 2006.

According to the organization's website, the program was launched in an effort to build a workforce of substance abuse professionals.

During their Prevention Fellowship Program experience, fellows focus on acquiring the necessary skills for success in the fields of substance abuse prevention and behavioral health. The program also trains individuals to provide capacity-building Technical Assistance to support integration of behavioral health prevention services in their state/territories.

"This is part of SAMHSA's support for integrating policies and programs related to prevention and behavioral health promotion in states, U.S. territories, and local organizations," the website stated.

The fellow will receive a yearly stipend of up to \$37,000, and will be required to work 32 hours per week. The CNMI is one of more than a dozen states and U.S. territories participating in the program.

Muna believes that it is an "excellent opportunity" to build local capacity and provides the fellow an opportunity for more in-depth research and

training.

She noted that applications are reviewed by SAMHSA for approval, which also determines the recipient of the fellowship.

"CHCC has received fellows in other programs and as with other fellows, we hope the individual remains in the CNMI," Muna added.

Applications must be completed and submitted by Aug. 14, 2015. To apply, qualified individuals can complete and submit the online application by visiting www.seiservices.com/SAMHSA/csap/preventionfellowship.

CNMI speech team concludes nat't tilt with honors

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's National Speech and Debate Association team recently concluded their weeklong trip to Dallas, Texas as a part of the annual speech and debate tilt that brought in more than 6,000 students from around the globe this year. The 14 junior high and 16 high school orators competed in categories ranging from poetry and impromptu speaking to prose interpretation and international extemporaneous speaking.

"The students represented their schools and their island with pride and honor," Pacific-

Island District chair Harold Easton told *Saipan Tribune*.

Marianas High School's Robert Malate and Arianne Reyes along with Kagman High School's Elizabeth Rose Jones advanced to the top 200 in the nation in poetry reading.

Cathryn Javier from Mount Carmel School made it to the top 200 in Prose Reading, while Issac Jang from Saipan International School advanced to the top 140 students in the same category.

In impromptu speaking, MCS' Thomas Manglona and Cathryn Javier along with Saipan Southern High School's Karrina

Punzalon made the round of the top 200 competitors.

Elizabeth Rose Jones, Grace Christian Academy's Yu Jin Lee, and Jayrald Mercene, from MHS, made it to the top 100 in the story telling category. Rebecca Kim from Northern Marianas Academy made the story telling round of the top 40 in the nation.

For the junior high school division, Hopwood Junior High School's Kelvin Wolf and Kate Ishida from Saipan Community School made the quarterfinals, which is the top 24 in the nation, for the humorous interpretation category.

Kelvin Wolf and Jerimiah

Fernandez made it to the quarterfinals in duo interpretation. Wolf also advanced to the semifinals in story telling.

"All in all the team did quite well finishing in the top percent-

tiles amount the thousands of students who competed over the past year from around the world and the nearly 6,000 who competed in Dallas," Easton said.

Kagman High School par-

style, new expectations. They become more ambitious and more competitive."

Former national champion and veteran orator Yujin Lee told *Saipan Tribune* she hopes to represent the islands next year as well. "This year's competition really motivated

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school and junior high school members of the CNMI speech and debate team pose for a photo at the Sheraton hotel in Dallas, Texas after their week long competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school and junior high school coaches from the CNMI's public and private schools pose for a photo.



ent coach Joy Jones described her first national experience as "great for the students." She added, "They worked really hard in preparation and then saw their hard work pay off. I was very proud of their efforts and performances."

NJSDA coach Victoria Nishida expressed similar sentiments.

"These middle school students are the best among the best of the nation. Seeing our very own students competing with them and winning against them is such a wonderful experience," she said. "This competition is a great learning experience for our students. Every time they compete in the national level, they learn new strategies, new

me and made me realize that I should work harder to achieve my goals," she said.

This year, Kagman High School and Northern Marianas Academy marked their first year of having students compete nationally. Prior to arriving in Texas, the team spent many weeks preparing their speeches and literary pieces for performance.

According to tournament officials, this year's tilt is one of the largest in the organization's long history. The national speech competition is considered the largest speech and debate tournament in the nation. Thousands of high school students from around the globe take part in its diverse speech categories every year.



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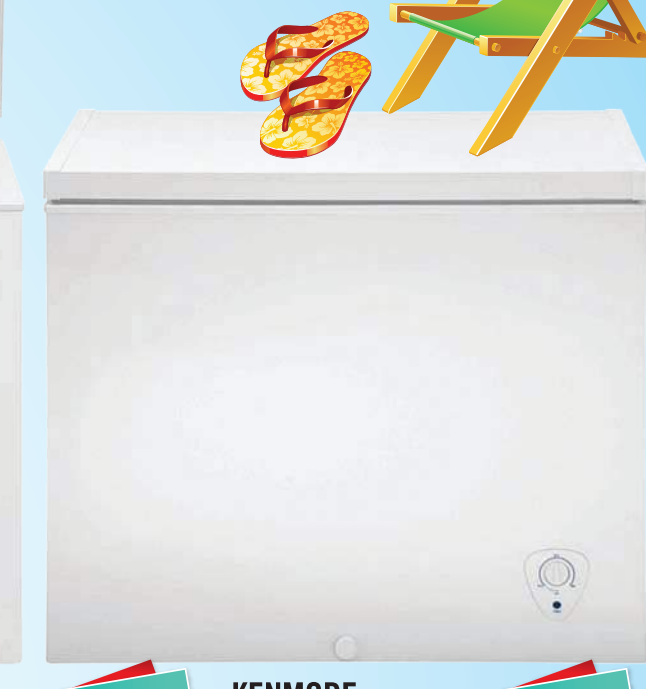
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Vanuatu reviews disaster response after tropical cyclone Pam

PORT VILA, Vanuatu—Just over 100 days since tropical cyclone Pam swept through the Pacific, the government of Vanuatu is reviewing its disaster response arrangements.

A Lessons Learnt Workshop, hosted by the National Disaster Management Office, will take place in Port Vila on June 24 and 25 to inform the development and implementation of improved procedures for disaster management in Vanuatu.

The workshop is funded by the European Union as part of the Building Safety and Re-

silience in the Pacific Project, an initiative implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

It will examine the coordination, early warning, information management, logistics and assessments that took place in the immediate aftermath of tropical cyclone Pam—all essential discussion topics following a disaster event of this magnitude.

In addition, the organizers are keen to understand how the response operations addressed issues relating to the different needs of different groups, pro-

tection and displacement.

These topics are particularly important as they relate to how the national arrangements met the needs of approximately 65,000 people who were displaced by the cyclone.

The Lessons Learnt Workshop will involve representatives of the government of Vanuatu, SPC, civil society organizations, faith-based groups, non-governmental organisations, the European Union, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, and the private sector.



Health clinic staff in Tanna checks health surveillance records, as Vanuatu rebuilds after tropical cyclone Pam.

The National Disaster Management Office hopes the workshop will provide partners with the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced during the response to tropical cyclone Pam, highlight areas of strength that can be built upon and help to develop practical solutions to include in work plans to support effective future disaster response.

The involvement of SPC is an opportunity to obtain feedback on its technical support role in the areas of food security, health surveillance, post disaster impact assessments and coordination support.

The objective of the ACP-EU "Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific" project is to reduce the vulnerability, as well as the social, economic and environmental costs of disasters caused by natural hazards, thereby achieving regional and national sustainable development and poverty reduction goals in 15 Pacific countries of the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) group of states. (SPC)

Inmate hangs himself in Guam jail

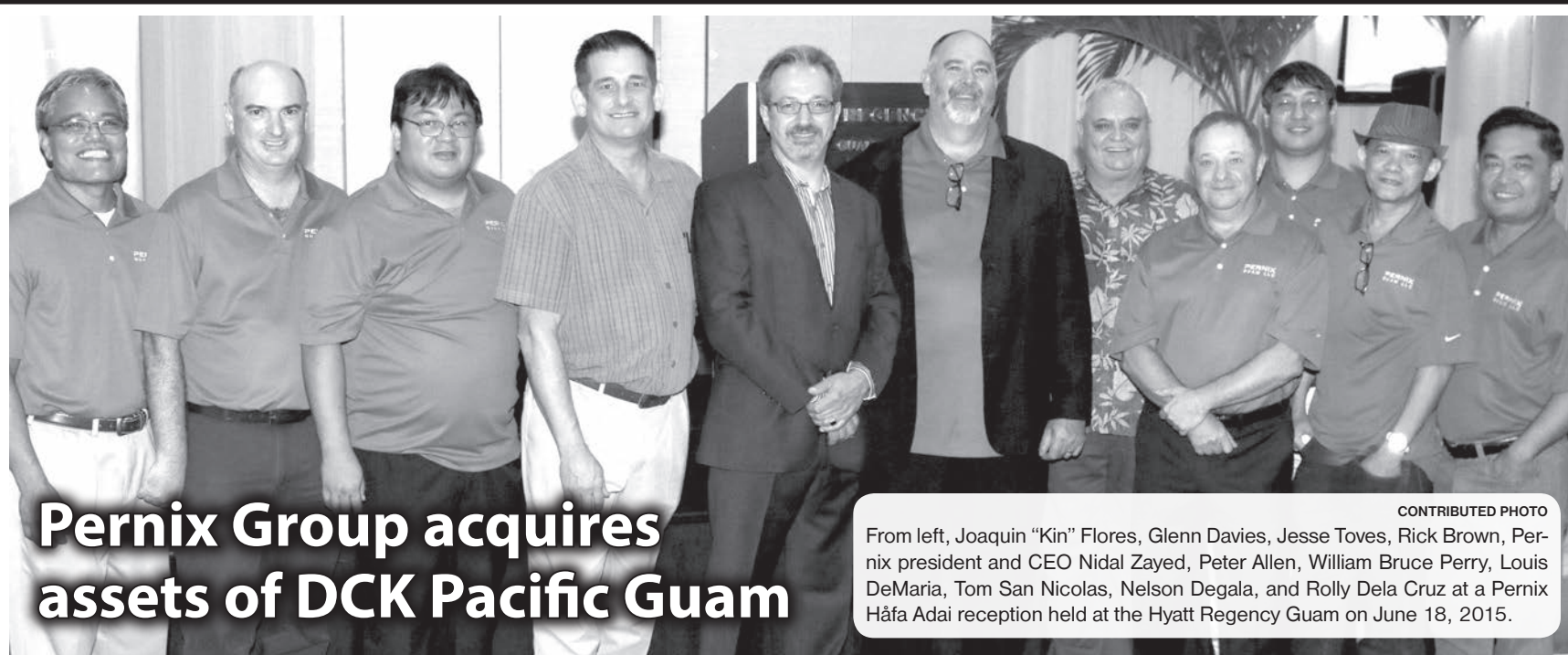
On Monday, June 22, 2015 at approximately 6pm, detainee Ti Dasi was found hanging in his cell during an attempted suicide. Corrections officers called 911 and Dasi was immediately transported to the U.S. Naval Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Internal Affairs Officers were immediately deployed to the facility to assess the situation and the Guam Police Department was notified. Dasi's next of kin was also notified and he was subsequently transferred to the Guam Memorial Hospital morgue pending the outcome of the investigation.

Ti Dasi also known as Tipe Musi, Tiki Mori and Tickmore Mualia was a 23-year-old Chuukese male who was sentenced on April 25, 2014 to three years imprisonment with all but six months suspended for theft of property as a third degree felony in CF 567-13. He was paroled on April 25, 2014, a term that was subsequently revoked in February 2015 for various violations to include the commission of aggravated assault in criminal felony CF430-14.

In November 2014, Dasi was sentenced to one-year probation for assault in criminal felony CF430-14, as a lesser included offense of aggravated assault.

He was being housed at Post 5 in a single man cell pending security classification. (PR)



Pernix Group acquires assets of DCK Pacific Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Joaquin "Kin" Flores, Glenn Davies, Jesse Toves, Rick Brown, Pernix president and CEO Nidal Zayed, Peter Allen, William Bruce Perry, Louis DeMaria, Tom San Nicolas, Nelson Degala, and Rolly Dela Cruz at a Pernix Hâfa Adai reception held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on June 18, 2015.

Pernix Group, Inc., a construction company recognized by Engineering News Record for being one of the Top 50 American Contractors working abroad for the last four years in a row, announced that it has closed on an agreement to acquire through a wholly owned subsidiary certain assets of DCK Pacific Guam, LLC that will complement Pernix's expanding Pacific operations.

The acquisition also includes the acquisition of DCK Worldwide, LLC's 55 percent membership interest in DCK-ECC Pacific Guam, LLC, a joint venture with Environmental Chemical Corporation with operations in Guam (the "JV"), which is currently executing a \$53.6-million contract for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command for the design and construction of an aircraft

maintenance hangar to provide operational and maintenance facilities for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Upon today's closing of the transaction with DCK, Pernix assumes a 96 percent interest in all rights and obligations of the JV with respect to the aircraft maintenance hangar project, while the other members of the JV retain the rights to all other projects of the JV.

The addition of an equipment fleet and the hiring of personnel with years of experience on Guam completing new construction and renovation work on institutional, retail, hotel, recreational, offices, and industrial facility space expands and strengthens Pernix's capabilities and positions the Company to rapidly respond to the growing commercial and U.S.

Military needs on Guam. This acquisition will add to Pernix's existing personnel on Guam, and increase the Company total employee count on Guam to 81 personnel. It also adds to Pernix's construction equipment fleet, including various cranes, lifts, generators, compressors, and many other construction equipment, along with more than 30 cars, trucks, and trailers.

CEO and president of Pernix, Nidal Z. Zayed stated, "We've been on the Islands for nearly 20 years and are proud to plant our roots here even deeper. Our mission has always been to safely deliver complex projects worldwide for the most discriminating customers while consistently exceeding all their expectations, and we're very excited to be bringing our management capability to serve the local Guam construction mar-

ket. Our capabilities for sustainable design and construction in the federal, commercial, industrial, and power markets will make us a leading contractor in Micronesia."

Zayed continued by saying "The addition of these personnel, equipment fleet, and backlog at Andersen AFB will leverage Pernix's growing construction portfolio and position us to capture new construction opportunities stemming from the \$8-billion federal build-up program for re-locating 5,000 Marines to Guam." He went on to state,

"This team of leading construction industry professionals has been on Guam since 1985, and has been responsible for more than 20 major construction contracts for the local commercial and federal government. We are now ex-

tremely well positioned to capture a significant share of the local commercial and public market, which in our opinion will boom over the next decade. Guam is a very beautiful and strategic Island. It not only attracts nearly two million visitors a year, it is also the front line in our military's presence in the Pacific. We are excited to have this team of accomplished professionals join the Pernix Family and look forward to offering our expanded capabilities throughout Micronesia."

Pernix chair Don Gunther stated, "This acquisition demonstrates our continued commitment to the Pacific Islands and puts Pernix on a growth trajectory with great value to our shareholders in growing revenue through new opportunities and more robust capabilities." (PR)

ON PROPOSAL TO REVISE GREEN TURTLE LISTINGS

Public hearings scheduled for Marianas, A. Samoa

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries are extending the public comment period to July 27, 2015, on the proposal to revise the listings of green sea turtles under the Endangered Species Act. The agencies will hold public informational meetings followed by public hearings on American Samoa, Saipan, and Guam in July.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries

are proposing to reclassify the breeding populations of green sea turtles in American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from threatened to endangered status under the Endangered Species Act.

The agencies are encouraging all interested parties to provide comments on this proposed action.

The agencies will hold the following public meetings and public hearings:

■ **American Samoa:** July 6, 5:30pm-6pm informational meeting, 6pm-8pm public hearing. American Samoa Community College Lecture Hall, P.O. Box 2609, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

■ **Saipan:** July 13, 5:30pm-6pm informational meeting, 6pm-8pm public hearing. Multi-Purpose Center (Saipan), Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan.

■ **Guam:** July 15, 5:30pm-6pm informational meeting, 6pm-8pm public hearing. Uni-

versity of Guam, Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building, Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923

The deadline for comments is July 27, 2015. Submit comments, information or data on this document, identified by the code NOAA-NMFS-2012-0154:

Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2012-0154>, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Mail: Submit written comments to Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or Green Turtle Proposed Listing Rule, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Florida Ecological Services Office, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

To learn more about sea turtles, go to: <http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/>. (PR)

Business

Big retailers feel pressure on Confederate flag merchandise

By **TOM MURPHY**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Even as national retailers pull Confederate flags from shelves and websites after the shooting deaths of nine black church members in South Carolina, manufacturers that produce the divisive symbol say that sales are now surging.

"I don't sell the Confederate flag for any specific group, I just sell the flag," said Kerry McCoy, owner and president of Arkansas' FlagandBanner.com. "This is America. Everybody has a right to be represented whether you are a history buff or a nut."

McCoy said her company expects to sell about 50 of the flags over the next week. That's about half of what they typically sell in a year.

Amazon, Sears, eBay and Etsy said Tuesday that they would remove Confederate flag merchandise from their websites. Sears does not sell the merchandise inside Sears or Kmart stores. Target said it pulled its historic Confeder-

ate costume from its web site, but said it did not carry Confederate flags or decor that bore that image.

Google, meanwhile, blocked digital ads featuring Confederate flags after concluding they violated the Internet company's policy against marketing messages promoting content that could be "generally perceived" as an expression of hate toward a group of people. The ban included Google Shopping, which consists of merchant ads. Links to Confederate flags are still being shown in Google's general search results.

The wave of merchandise bans came a day after Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said that it would remove all Confederate-themed items from its store shelves and website after the South Carolina shooting suspect, Dylann Storm Roof, appeared in photos holding the flag.

Other national retailers say they do not sell, or never have sold, Confederate items.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, asked about the retailers pulling flags from stores,

said those are "decisions for individual businesses to make." He added that the businesses' decisions were consistent with the president's position.

The red-white-and-blue Confederate battle flag represents racism to many, and southern heritage to others. The debate over its place exploded after the church shootings. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that the flag should be removed from the Statehouse grounds.

While the Confederate flag represents a small slice of their business, some of those that produce them say they have no plans to stop.

Pete Van de Putte said sales of Confederate flags are surging at his Dixie Flag Manufacturing in San Antonio, Texas. He said he has sold more flags in the last couple days than they would have typically sold over a couple of months.

"Any time there is a controversy about any flag, we sell more flags," he said. "It's not like selling tires or washing machines.

Exxon Mobil halts 3 platforms after spill crippled pipeline

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The shutdown of a pipeline that spilled up to 101,000 gallons of crude on the Santa Barbara coast forced Exxon Mobil Corp. to halt operations at three offshore platforms because it couldn't deliver oil to refineries, the company said Tuesday.

The company temporarily ceased operations last week because Santa Barbara County rejected its emergency application to truck oil to refineries, spokesman Richard Keil said.

A Santa Barbara County official said the company's problem did not constitute an emergency and it could go through the normal procedure, which requires extensive environmental review, to get a permit to truck the oil.

The shutdown is not expected to have an impact on oil prices, but it does harm Exxon Mobil's bottom line even though production from the platforms is small compared to the company's overall

output, said Tom Kloza, global head of energy at the Oil Price Information Service.

Crude was selling last week for \$60 to \$64 a barrel and could fetch more than \$91 when refined for automobile gas, he said. That provided a lot of incentive for Exxon Mobil.

"I'm sure it's a royal pain for them," Kloza said. "Given the profit margins for gasoline, whether you have to (deliver) it by wheelbarrow or rickshaw, you're very motivated."

Exxon Mobil had cut production from the rigs by two-thirds after Plains All American Pipeline's conduit was shut down by a May 19 spill that soiled pristine coastline and spread tar balls as far as Los Angeles County, some 100 miles away. Nearly 200 birds and more than 100 marine mammals have been found dead in the waters.

Federal regulators investigating the cause of the spill have revealed the 2-foot-wide pipe was severely corroded where it

accordance with the relevant laws and regulations."

Italian officials are seeking to charge 297 people, including four senior managers of the bank's Milan branch, as well as the branch itself.

Prosecutors said more than 4.5 billion euros (\$5.1 billion) in proceeds from counterfeiting and other illicit activities was sent to China using a money-transfer service part-owned by Chinese migrants. Nearly half that money went through the Bank of China's Milan branch,

ruptured but have not issued any findings or penalties.

The pipeline carried oil to refineries from an Exxon Mobil facility in Las Flores Canyon that separates crude, water and natural gas about 15 miles west of Santa Barbara.

Before the shutdown, daily production from the Hondo, Harmony and Heritage rigs that sit 5 to 8 miles offshore had been cut from 30,000 barrels to 10,000 barrels.

That production is just a sliver of the more than 4 million barrels per day Exxon Mobil reported in the first quarter of the year. There are 42 gallons in a barrel.

While the plant is capable of storing up to 540,000 barrels of crude, the company said it expected to reach capacity less than a month after it filed its June 4 emergency application. Plains has not provided an estimate of when it might be able to restart the pipeline after meeting federal regulators' requirements.

which had an exclusive contract with the money transfer network, prosecutors said.

Ratings agency Standard and Poor's said an indictment would be unlikely to impact the bank's credit rating, given its sizeable asset base of 16 trillion yuan (\$2.6 trillion) and the "very high likelihood of extraordinary support from the Chinese government."

Bank of China shares were up 0.7 percent, to HK\$5.44 in morning trade in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

Nation

SC lawmakers overwhelmingly vote to debate Confederate flag

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to consider removing the Confederate flag from their Statehouse grounds and other politicians took aim at Civil War-era symbols across the South, saying change is imperative after police said nine black churchgoers were slain in a hate crime.

Prodded by Gov. Nikki Haley's call the day before to move the flag to a museum, lawmakers approved a measure enabling a flag debate by a vote of 103-10 in the House and a voice vote in the Senate.

The House vote brought a standing ovation and rounds of applause after Democratic and Republican leaders jointly sponsored the measure in a show of uncharacteristic unity. Very few lawmakers rose to say the flag should stay; some said they were saving speeches for what promises to be an emotional debate later this summer.

Lawmakers then prayed for state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who joined the legislature in 1997 and who, as pastor of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston, was among the dead.

"I ask that in the memory

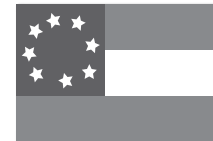
US won't threaten to prosecute hostages' families for ransom

WASHINGTON (AP)—Softening longstanding policy, the Obama administration will tell families of Americans held by terror groups that they can communicate with captors and even pay ransom without fear of prosecution. The shift comes as part of a broad review of U.S. hostage guidelines that will be released Wednesday.

President Barack Obama ordered the review last fall after the deaths of Americans held hostage by the Islamic State. The

Flags of the Confederate States of America

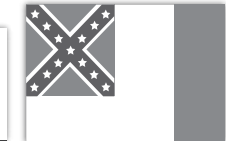
Official flags of the Confederate States



"The Stars and Bars"
The first flag featured eight stars for each state the Confederacy had at the time. The flag's similarity to the U.S. flag created problems on the battlefield.



"The Stainless Banner"
The second official flag was adopted in 1863. Its first official use was on Stonewall Jackson's casket.

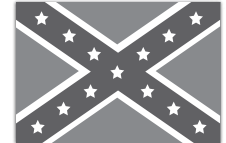


The third national flag was adopted in 1865, shortly before the surrender of the South.

Battle flags

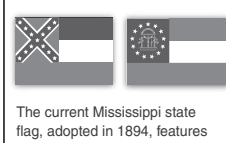


Army of Northern Virginia
This flag was issued to troops in November 1861 to distinguish them from Union soldiers. It is featured on Confederate national flags, Mississippi's flag, and is flown at the South Carolina Statehouse.



Army of Tennessee
Based on the Northern Virginia flag, this rectangular flag was issued to troops in 1864. The 13 stars represent the Confederate states plus one, hinting at the possibility of states like Maryland, Missouri or Kentucky seceding.

Current state flags



The current Mississippi state flag, adopted in 1894, features the Confederate battle flag in the upper left corner, and Georgia's flag, adopted in 2004, is similar to the original "Stars and Bars" Confederate flag.

Source: Smithsonian Institution, Museum of the Confederacy, South Carolina Statehouse, Georgia state government, Fotolia
Graphic: Tribune News Service

of Mr. Pinckney that we are generous in spirit, gracious in our conversation and please—even if we disagree, let's agree to disagree agreeably," Democratic Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter urged her colleagues. "Those nine families have shown us how to do it. I would strongly suggest we take a cue from them."

Dylann Storm Roof, who faces murder and gun charges in the church attack, had posed in photos displaying Confederate flags and burning or desecrating U.S. flags, and told a

friend that he was planning to do something "for the white race."

Haley's call to put the Confederate flag in a museum was quickly seconded by leading Republicans including U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, giving others a political opening to announce their moves. Many cited the church slayings as they abandoned the long-held position that even debating the status of the flag would be too racially divisive today.

families of some of those killed complained about their dealings with the administration, saying they were threatened with criminal prosecution if they pursued paying ransom in exchange for their loved ones' release.

Two U.S. officials familiar with the review said there will be no formal change to the law that explicitly makes it a crime to provide money or other material support to terror organizations, nor will Obama directly approve of families

paying ransom. However, the administration will make clear that the Justice Department has never prosecuted anyone for paying ransom and that that will continue to be the case.

The review is also expected to make clear that the U.S. government can help facilitate communications with terrorists on behalf of families seeking the release of hostages. However, that assistance will still stop short of government ransoms or other concessions.

ACROSS THE NATION

Searchers buoyed by fresh DNA comb woods for escaped inmates

BELLMONT, N.Y. (AP)—Hundreds of searchers spurred on by fresh evidence methodically combed through heavy woods in far northern New York on Tuesday hoping to finally close in on two elusive murderers who escaped from a maximum-security prison more than two weeks ago. Authorities began committing heavy resources to the remote woods days ago after leads from a hunting camp that was apparently broken into led to "good evidence, DNA data" regarding inmates David Sweat and Richard Matt, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Roadblocks were in place Tuesday around the remote hamlets of Owls Head and Mountain View in an area of rugged terrain about 20 miles west of Clinton County Correctional Facility. Searchers were checking ATV trails, logging roads and railroad beds and going door-to-door and conducting grid searches in the thick, mosquito-infested forests, said Franklin County Sheriff Kevin Mulverhill. He said people were checking

seasonal properties for signs of intruders.

Powerful rainstorms hit East Coast; Midwest states clean up

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Severe weather that pounded the Midwest and spawned tornadoes shifted on Tuesday to the East Coast, where tornado warnings were issued in several states and rainstorms were strong enough to stop train service. The National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for much of southern New England, and strong thunderstorms in Connecticut caused widespread power outages. Storms moving into Philadelphia on Tuesday evening blackened the sky and temporarily halted commuter trains beginning at rush hour. Amtrak suspended its Northeast Corridor and Keystone services from Washington through Philadelphia and on to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but restored service about two hours later. The heat also was a problem. Several people were treated for heat-related issues at a high school graduation in southern New Jersey, where temperatures were in the high 80s.

Bank of China says it will cooperate with Italians in probe

SHANGHAI (AP)—The Bank of China said it would cooperate with Italian prosecutors seeking to indict the bank and hundreds of Chinese migrants following a massive money-laundering probe reported by The Associated Press earlier this month.

In a statement Tuesday, the bank said it has not received any formal prosecution documents from Italian authorities. But company secretary Yeung Cheung Ying said the bank will "provide timely disclosure in

Asia

Japan navy drill in S. China Sea may lead to larger role

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines (AP)—A tiny military exercise in the Philippines this week may presage something much bigger: the entry of Japan into the tussle for control of the South China Sea.

A Japanese surveillance plane and about 20 troops conducted the first of two days of joint training with the Philippine navy on Tuesday off the coast of Palawan, a strategically important island not far from contested islands claimed by several countries including China and the Philippines.

While the P-3C plane was being used for maritime search-and-rescue drills and disaster relief drills, the aircraft is also a mainstay of Japan's anti-submarine and other aerial surveillance efforts. In theory, it could help the U.S. keep an eye on the Chinese navy in the South China Sea. Some experts think that's a possibility in coming years.

"It's likely we will see Japan doing joint surveillance and



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force P-3C surveillance plane touches down at an airport in Puerto Princesa on the western provincial island of Palawan, Philippines, following a training flight in a joint military exercise with the Philippines Navy.

reconnaissance in the South China Sea in the coming years," said Narushige Michishita, a defense expert at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo. "It is going to be with the U.S., Australia, the Philippines and others."

Others are less certain. Such a move would raise tensions with China, with which Japan al-

ready has a major territorial dispute over islands farther north in the East China Sea. It would face public opposition at home from those who want Japan's military to avoid getting entangled in overseas disputes. The military is already stretched, keeping an eye for example on North Korea and China in the East China Sea.

Major heat wave in southern Pakistan kills over 600 people

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A scorching heat wave across Pakistan's southern Sindh province has killed at least 622 people, authorities said Tuesday, as morgues overflowed with the dead and overwhelmed hospitals struggled to aid those clinging to life.

Most of the deaths were reported in Karachi, the country's largest city and its commercial hub. The port city on the Arabian Sea had at least 600 fatalities.

Temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) first struck over the weekend in Karachi, with mercury rising in the rest of

Sindh province. Hours-long power outages, typical in Pakistan, left fans and air conditioners inoperable.

The heat wave compounded the struggles of ordinary Pakistanis as it struck amid the holy, fasting month of Ramadan, when observant Muslims abstain from food or water during daylight hours.

"We have confirmed data that 622 people died of the heat wave across the whole of province," said Saeed Mangnejo, the top administrative health official in Sindh.

"But the worst hit is Karachi, where over 600 people died of heat stroke, 19 died in

other parts of the province," he said, adding that he expects the number of fatalities to climb even further.

The Karachi toll was a significant jump since earlier in the day, the city's director of health Zafar Ejaz said at least 436 people have been killed by the heat wave.

"Many people have been taken to private hospitals where they have died ... we are collecting that data," Mangnejo said.

The power outages also affected the sporadic water supply in Karachi, where those who can afford it rely on tankers of water being delivered to their homes.

charity six months before the death of its founder, Mother Teresa, in 1997. She remained its leader, or superior general, until stepping down in 2009. That year, she also received India's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in honor of her service to the nation.

Militant bombings kill 2 soldiers in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two Philippine soldiers have been killed and three others wounded in bomb attacks by Abu Sayyaf militants in a southern province, the military said Wednesday. The bombings came a week after a pipe bomb killed a soldier and wounded eight others on Basilan, one of the southern island provinces where the militants operate. The first blast Tuesday morning killed two soldiers and wounded two others while they were on a road patrol in Sumisip township, a military report said. Another soldier was wounded during a gunbattle between troops and about seven militants following the second blast in Tipo-Tipo municipality. No one was hurt in the third blast in Lamitan city close to midnight.

World

Kurds keep up offensive vs extremists in northern Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Backed by U.S.-led airstrikes and buoyed by battlefield successes, Kurdish fighters kept up an offensive through northern Syria on Tuesday, driving Islamic State militants out of a town near the extremists' de facto capital of Raqqa.

The capture of Ein Issa came just hours after the Kurdish forces had overrun a nearby military base, increasing the pressure on the Islamic State group less than two weeks after it lost the strategically located town of Tal Abyad on the Turkish border, severing a vital supply line.

The advances by the Kurdish fighters in Syria as well as in northern Iraq has been credited largely to a high level of coordination between the ground forces and the nearly year-old air campaign being

led by Washington against the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL in English and by its Arabic acronym, Daesh.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest called the success by the Kurds "an indication of how critically important it is for the United States to have a capable, willing and effective partner fighting ISIL on the ground."

That was why the U.S. was dedicating "significant resources" to building up opposition forces, he said. That work was "a more difficult task" in Syria than Iraq, but that "this is a pretty good illustration of why that very difficult work is important," Earnest added.

Ein Issa is only 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Raqqa, the stronghold of the Islamic State's self-declared caliphate that spans parts of Syria and Iraq.

WikiLeaks: NSA eavesdropped on the last 3 French presidents

PARIS (AP)—WikiLeaks published documents late Tuesday that it says show the U.S. National Security Agency eavesdropped on the last three French presidents, releasing material which appeared to capture officials in Paris talking candidly about Greece's economy, relations with Germany—and, ironically, American espionage.

The release caused an uproar among French politicians, although it didn't reveal any huge surprises or secrets. France itself is on the verge of approving broad new surveillance powers, and is among several U.S. allies that rely heavily on American spying powers when trying to prevent terrorist and other threats.

There was no instant confirmation of the accuracy of

the documents released in collaboration with French daily newspaper Liberation and investigative website Mediapart, but WikiLeaks has a track record of publishing intelligence and diplomatic material. It appeared serious enough to prompt an emergency meeting of President Francois Hollande's defense council, according to presidential aides. The council, convening Wednesday morning, includes top French security officials.

WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson told The Associated Press he was confident the documents were authentic, noting that WikiLeaks' previous mass disclosures—including a large cache of Saudi diplomatic memos released last week—have proven to be accurate.

The recent battlefield setbacks for IS were mentioned in an audio message by the group's spokesman, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"God never gave the mujahedeen a promise of victory every time," al-Adnani said in the message posted on social media, adding that the faithful "may lose a battle or battles and may lose towns and areas, but will never be defeated."

He urged Sunni Muslims to use the time of piety and dawn-to-dusk fasting as an occasion to wage jihad and seek martyrdom.

"Attack them everywhere and shake the ground beneath them," he said in the morale-boosting message, his voice rising. "If you lose territory, you will win it back and more in the future, God willing."

Hollande's office didn't comment beyond announcing Wednesday's security meeting, though his Socialist Party issued an angry statement saying the reports suggest "a truly stupefying state paranoia." Even if the government was aware of such intercepts, the party said, that doesn't mean "that this massive, systematic, uncontrolled eavesdropping is tolerable."

An aide to Hollande's predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy told the AP that the former president considers these methods unacceptable, especially from an ally. The aide was not authorized to be publicly named.

There was no immediate comment from former President Jacques Chirac, also reportedly targeted by the eavesdropping.

Parched Caribbean faces widespread drought, water shortages

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The worst drought in five years is creeping across the Caribbean, prompting officials around the region to brace for a bone dry summer.

From Puerto Rico to Cuba to the eastern Caribbean island of St. Lucia, crops are withering, reservoirs are drying up and cattle are dying while forecasters worry that the situation could only grow worse in the coming months.

Thanks to El Nino, a warming of the tropical Pacific that affects global weather, and a quieter-than-normal hurricane season that began in June, forecasters expect a shorter wet season. That means less rain to help refill Puerto Rico's thirsty Carraizo and La Plata reservoirs as well as the La

Plata river in the central island community of Naranjito. A tropical disturbance that hit the U.S. territory on Monday did not fill up those reservoirs as officials had anticipated.

Puerto Rico is among the Caribbean islands worst-hit by the water shortage, with more than 1.5 million people affected by the drought so far, according to the U.S. National Drought Mitigation Center.

Tens of thousands of people receive water only every third day under strict rationing recently imposed by the island government. Puerto Rico last week also activated National Guard troops to help distribute water and approved a resolution to impose fines on people and businesses for improper water use.

The Caribbean's last severe

drought was in 2010. The current one could grow worse if the hurricane season ending in November produces scant rainfall and the region enters the dry season with parched reservoirs, said Cedric Van Meerbeeck, a climatologist with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology.

"We might have serious water shortages ... for irrigation of crops, firefighting, domestic consumption or consumption by the hotel sector," he said.

The Caribbean isn't the only area in the Western Hemisphere dealing with extreme water shortages. Brazil has been struggling with its own severe drought that has drained reservoirs serving the metropolis of Sao Paulo.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China says 'Golden Triangle' source of most dangerous drugs

BEIJING (AP)—China says Southeast Asia's lawless 'Golden Triangle' region remains the overwhelming source of the heroin and methamphetamine used in the country. A Cabinet report on China's drug situation released Wednesday underscores the threat posed by the region incorporating parts of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, despite efforts at cross-border cooperation. It said that 90 percent of the 9.3 tons of heroin and 11.4 tons of methamphetamine seized in 2014 came from the area that borders China's southern province of Yunnan.

Nun who took on Mother Teresa's India charity mission dies

KOLKATA, India (AP)—The Indian nun who replaced Mother Teresa as head of the Missionaries of Charity died Tuesday, the organization said. Sister Nirmala Joshi was 81. Her health had been declining in recent days, the charity said. It did not give more details about the cause of her death. She was selected to lead the Roman Catholic

Environment

As globe warms, melting glaciers revealing more than bare earth

By **TIM JOHNSON**
MCCLATCHY FOREIGN STAFF

CIUDAD SERDAN, Mexico—As a result of warming temperatures, Mexico's tallest volcano, Pico de Orizaba, is performing an all-natural striptease, the ice patches near its summit melting away to bare rock.

The same process is taking place in the permafrost of Russia, the ice fields of the Yukon and the glaciers of New Zealand. And as the once-frozen world emerges from slumber, it's yielding relics, debris—and corpses—that have laid hidden for decades, even millennia.

The thaw has unnerved archaeologists, given hope to relatives of lost mountain climbers and solved the mysteries of old plane crashes.

What emerges is not always apparent—or even pleasant. That pungent smell? It's a massive deposit of caribou dung in the Yukon that had been frozen for thousands of years, and now is decomposing in the air, its sharp odor unlocked.

Pico de Orizaba towers above all other mountains in Mexico at 18,491 feet. It is the highest peak in North America after



Mexico's highest volcano, Pico de Orizaba, towers 18,491 feet high, only 60 miles or so from the Gulf of Mexico. It is the third highest peak in North America after Mt. McKinley in Alaska and Mt. Logan in Canada. Frozen bodies keep turning up on the peak, seen here June 11, 2015.

Mount McKinley in Alaska and Mount Logan in Canada's Yukon Territory. A challenging dormant volcano, Orizaba is a training ground for those interested in high-altitude climbing.

For a handful of climbers, it has been their last peak. They've been buried by avalanches or swallowed by crevasses. Now, the mountain is spitting back their bodies.

Late in February, a climbing

party circled the jagged crater atop Orizaba.

"One of them slipped, and they later said he skidded down and came to a stop. When he got up, he saw a head poking out of the snow," said Hilario Aguilar Aguilar, a veteran climber

It was a mummified climber, a member of a Mexican expedition hit by an avalanche on Nov. 2, 1959. Some climbers fell near the Chimicheco Ridge, their

bodies frozen in an icy time machine, only to re-emerge 56 years later.

Hearing of the macabre discovery, prosecutors dispatched Aguilar and other climbers March 4 to document the scene of death.

"Upon clearing away some snow so that I could take some photographs, I saw another hand. Suddenly, there were one, two, three hands. It didn't seem

possible. Digging a little more, we discovered that there was another body," Aguilar said.

Then word came of another body, this one at an oxygen-deprived elevation of about 16,900 feet on another side of the crater. Aguilar and his crew went up June 4 and brought the body down on a metal gurney, dragging it down a steep scree slope.

Wearing a suit inappropriate for a freezing clime, the victim may have been thrown from a small plane that crashed on Orizaba in 1999, although his identity is not yet known.

Elsewhere around the world, explorers and scientists are stumbling upon mountainside plane wrecks, finding mummified Incan children, and discovering a frozen graveyard of ancient marine reptiles once hidden under a Chilean glacier.

Archaeologists are turning into unlikely beneficiaries of a warmer Earth, and several have started a new publication: the Journal of Glacial Archaeology.

Its editor, E. James Dixon, an anthropologist at the University of New Mexico, frets about the phenomenon of ancient ice melting after thousands of years.

"For every discovery that is

made, there are thousands coming out of the ice and are decomposing very rapidly," Dixon said. "In the ice, some of the most delicate artifacts are preserved. We've found baskets, arrow shafts with the feathers intact and arrowheads and lashings perfectly preserved."

Once the ice melts and the artifacts are exposed, they decay quickly.

Ill-fated modern mountaineers are also melting out of glaciers.

Hikers in Canada's Columbia Icefields in 2010 came across the body of an American, William Holland, 38, who fell off a precipice and was subsequently buried by an avalanche in 1989. His body was so well-preserved that his spiked boots were still on his feet and his climbing rope was still coiled around his body.

Last month, the body of a New Zealand teenage climber, David Erik Moen, was returned to his family 42 years after an avalanche near Mount Cook in the Southern Alps buried him.

Another glacier and icefall in the area, Hochstetter, spit out human remains in March. News reports say police are still working to provide an identity.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

†**NADINE ELIZABETH
TENORIO CAMACHO**

September 3, 1982 – June 22, 2015

Paternal Grandparents: †Manuel Tudela Camacho & †Elizabeth Flores Camacho

Maternal Grandparents: †Pedro Arriola Tenorio & Isabel Sablan Tenorio

Paternal Aunts & Uncles:

Mercedes (Isias Maratita), Augustina (Jose Cabrera), Guillerma Juana (Jesus Guerrero), Arturo (Maria Balajaya), Frederico (Magdalena Castro), †Leonardo, Alfonsinia (Jim Taylor Fl.), Anicia (Thomas Dela Cruz), Rosiky (Winnie Aldan-Cabrera), Immaculada (Abraham Arriola), Rufino (Kyomi Mafnas)

Maternal Aunts & Uncles:

Pete Sablan Tenorio, Jr./Virginia Camacho Tenorio; Margarita Tenorio Cabrera/†Maximo Camacho Cabrera; Laura Tenorio Quitano/Jose Quitano; Lino Sablan Tenorio/Marcela Tudela Tenorio; Magdalena Tenorio Aguon/Jose Quichocho Aguon; Catherine Sablan Tenorio / Sixto Kaipat Igisomar

Parents: Faustino Flores Camacho & Maria Lillian Tenorio Camacho

Children: Lance Jude Camacho & Elizabeth Milagro Camacho

Sister: Brenda Lynn Tenorio Camacho/ Geraldine T. Aguon

Brothers:

Manuel Tenorio Camacho / Jennifer Santos Camacho (Mathew, Claymore, Ozzy); Sidney Tenorio Camacho / Victoria Apatang (John David, Donovan, Jacoby); Zachary Tenorio Camacho (†Zachary Jr., Donovan, Zack Boy, Zion); Sherman Tenorio Camacho / Jennelyn Cepeda Camacho (Julianna, Shanelle)

She is also survived by numerous other aunts & uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins

**6pm Mass • San Roque Church – Tue., Thur.,
9am Sunday Mass**

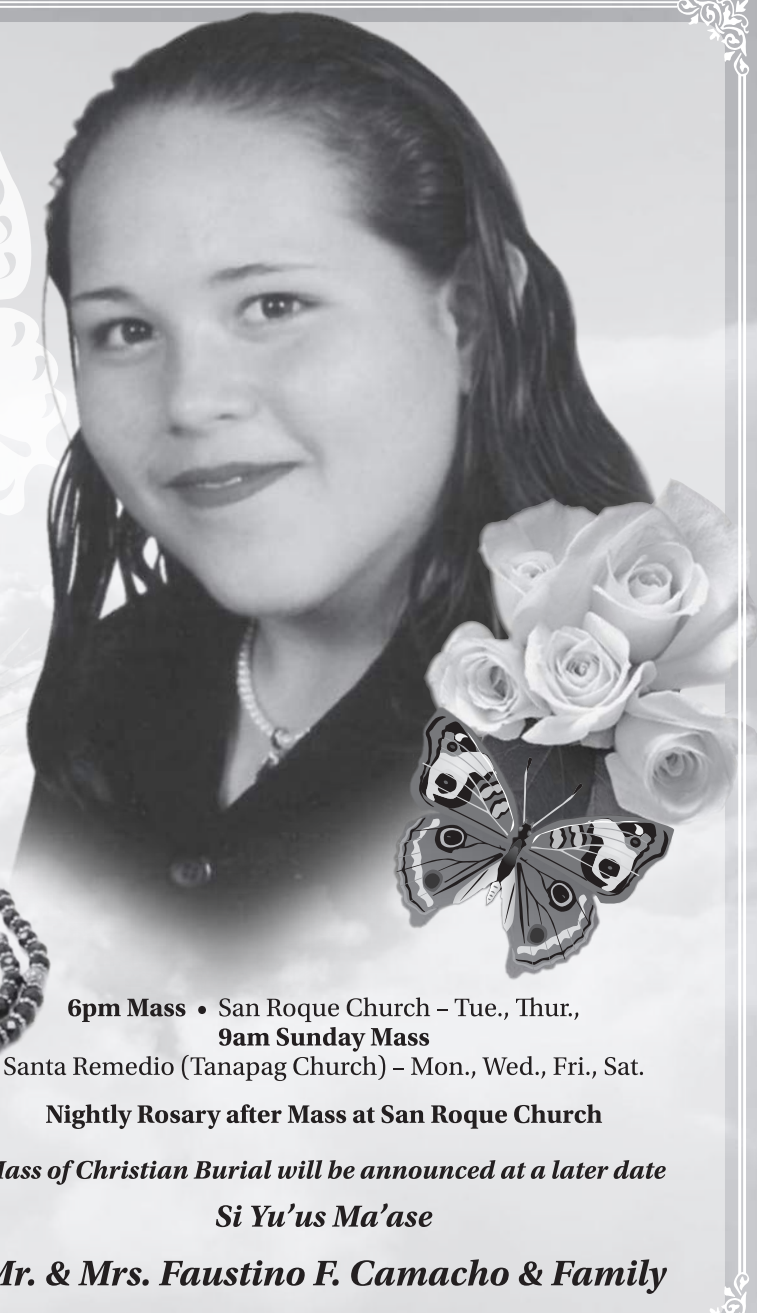
Santa Remedio (Tanapag Church) – Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.

Nightly Rosary after Mass at San Roque Church

Mass of Christian Burial will be announced at a later date

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mr. & Mrs. Faustino F. Camacho & Family



Life & Style

Oscar-winning 'Titanic' composer James Horner dead at 61

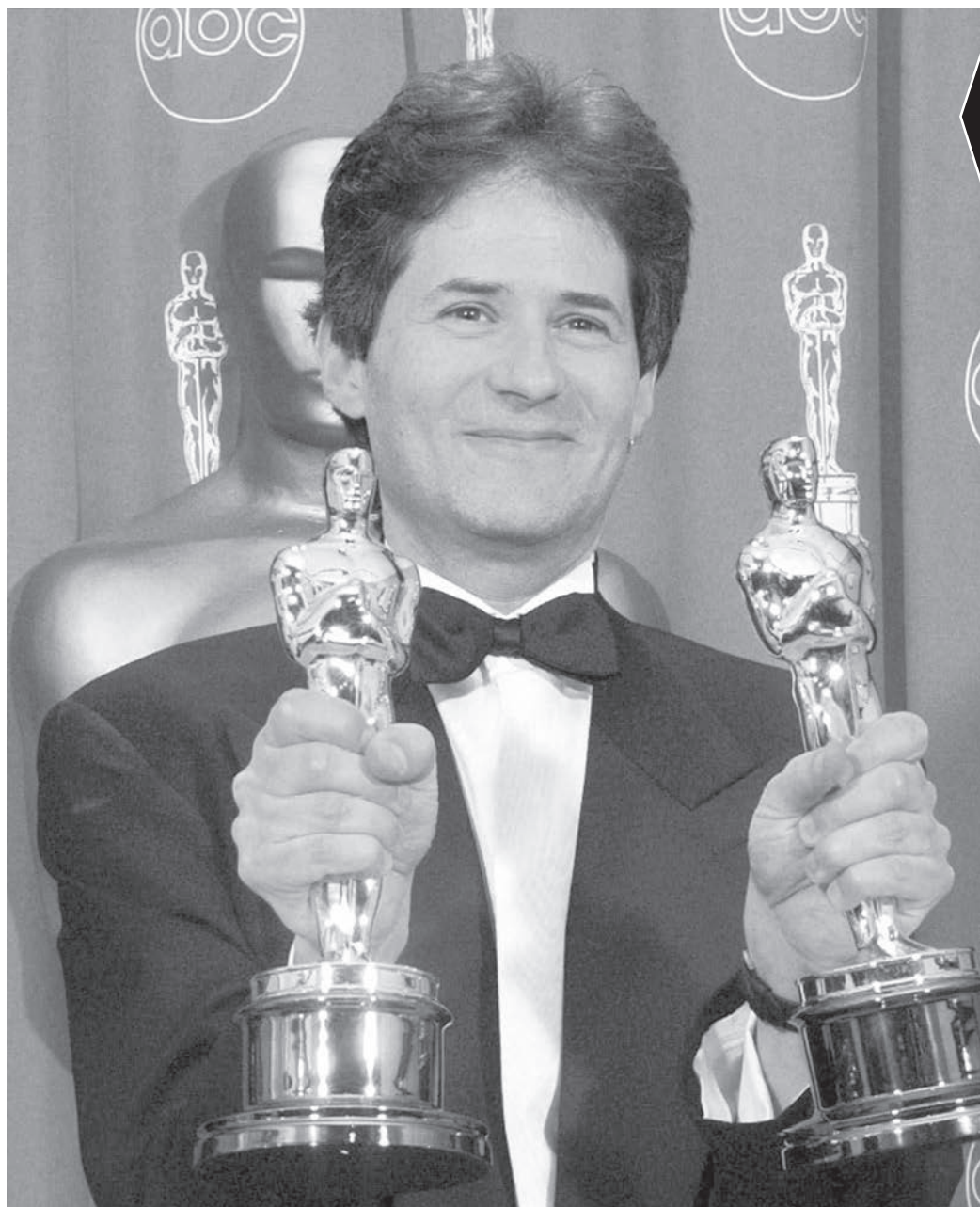
LOS ANGELES (AP) — From the swelling-sea songs of "Titanic" to the space symphonies of "Apollo 13" to the bagpipes of "Braveheart," James Horner's singular sound graced some of the biggest moments in the history of movies.

It showed in the two Oscars he won and the 10 he was nominated for, and in the status of the Hollywood luminaries who were mourning his death in a California plane crash.

Agents Michael Gorfaine and Sam Schwartz issued a statement Tuesday saying Horner was the pilot killed in the single-engine plane that crashed in a remote area about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles, although official confirmation could take several days while the Ventura County coroner works to identify the remains.

People who fueled the plane at an airport in Camarillo confirmed that it was Horner who had taken off in the aircraft Monday morning, said Horner's attorney, Jay Cooper.

James Cameron, who directed "Titanic," the 1997 best picture that earned Horner his two Oscars, used terms from another of his Horner collaborations, "Avatar," to describe



AP
In this March 23, 1998, file photo, composer James Horner displays Oscars he won for Original Song and Original Dramatic Score for "Titanic" at the 70th Academy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

the composer's work.

"James' music was the air under the banshees' wings, the ancient song of the forest," Cameron said in a joint statement with producing partner Jon Landau. "James' music affected the heart because his heart was so big, it infused every cue with deep emotional resonance, whether soaring in majesty through the floating mountains, or crying for the loss of nature's innocence under bulldozer treads."

Horner had a singular sound, but it found a home in a vast variety of movies and other media, from 1980s synth-laden action flicks to dramatic Hollywood weepies to foreign-language indies. He even composed the theme song for the "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric."

His Oscar wins for "Titanic" came for its score and theme song, "My Heart Will Go On," sung by Celine Dion, which hit No. 1 around the world and become the best-selling single of 1998. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Recording Industry Association

of America included it among their "Songs of the Century" rankings.

"We will always remember his kindness and great talent that changed my career," Dion said in a statement on her website.

Horner was nominated for 10 Academy Awards in all, honoring his work on "Aliens," "Apollo 13," "Field of Dreams," "Braveheart," "A Beautiful Mind," "House of Sand and Fog" and "Avatar," and for his original song, "Somewhere Out There," from "An American Tail."

Ron Howard, director of "Apollo 13" and "A Beautiful Mind," said on Twitter that Horner was a "friend and collaborator" and "brilliant composer."

"My heart aches for his loved ones," Howard wrote.

A pianist since age 5, Horner studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and the University of Southern California, eventually earning graduate degrees at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He got his start composing for movies by scoring shorts for the American Film Institute. His first commercial credits came from Roger Corman, who hired Horner to score several films in the 1980s, including "Humanoids from the Deep" and "Battle Beyond the Stars."

Horner discussed his approach to making music while working on "Avatar."

"To me, writing and composing are much more like painting, about colors and brushes," he told the Los Angeles Times in 2009. "I don't use a computer when I write and I don't use a piano. I'm at a desk writing and it's very broad strokes and notes as colors on a palette. I think very abstractly when I'm writing. Then as the project moves on it becomes more like sculpting."

Horner was known for including passages from his earlier compositions and from other composers in his work.

Horner's other collaborators included George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and Oliver Stone.

He also wrote the score for the forthcoming "Southpaw," a boxing drama starring Jake Gyllenhaal that comes out July 24.

Horner worked many times with Cameron, with whom he often discussed the role of music in film.

"My job ... is to make sure at every turn of the film it's something the audience can feel with their heart," Horner said in 2009. "When we lose a character, when somebody wins, when somebody loses, when someone disappears—at all times I'm keeping track, constantly, of what the heart is supposed to be feeling."

Counting by the billion, Hollywood's summer starts to sizzle

NEW YORK (AP)—"A million dollars isn't cool," said Justin Timberlake as Sean Parker in "The Social Network." "You know what's cool? A billion dollars."

He was talking about Silicon Valley, but he might as well have meant today's Hollywood. And lately, the movie business has been hot enough to be very cool.

When "Jurassic World" crossed \$1 billion globally on Monday after just 13 days of release, it did it faster than any movie before. And it wasn't just the first film this year, or even this season, to reach that mark. "Jurassic World" is the third billion-dollar movie this summer following "Furious 7" (\$1.5 billion) and "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (\$1.4 billion).

Those two films already rank among the five highest grossing films ever, and "Jurassic World" is certain to join them. A billion dollars is starting to look easy.

The summer box office got off to a so-so start, but, suddenly, business is booming at the multiplex. After "Jurassic World" set an opening record two weeks ago, almost doubling expectations, Pixar's

"Inside Out" followed up with a forecast-busting debut of its own, with \$90.4 million.

An industry where the sky is often rumored to be falling, for the moment, is roaring.

"Audiences love to go to the movie theater," says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office data firm Rentrak. "I don't want to hear any more that people don't want to go to the movie theater and they just want to sit on their couch. They want to do both. That outside-of-the-home experience is essential and these two weekends prove it."

The twin hits couldn't be more different. One is an Earth-stomping franchise entry that cynically alludes to its own corporate profit-driven existence; the other is a rainbow-colored burst of originality. When it comes to moviemaking, no rule is so set in stone that its opposite isn't true, too.

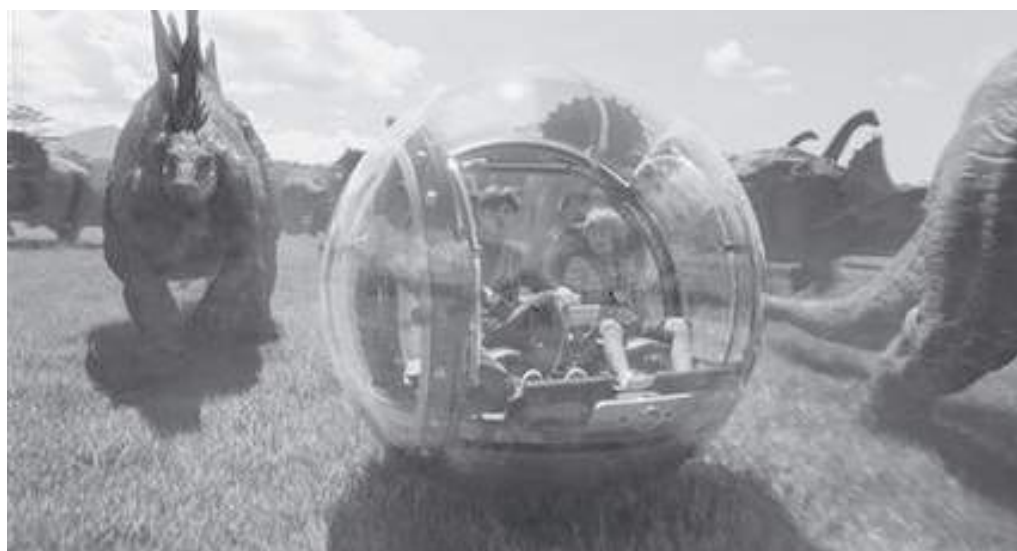
"Jurassic World," both a sequel and a reboot, is directed by Colin Trevorrow but also came, importantly, with Steven Spielberg's name attached (as executive producer). The fourth "Jurassic Park" film—like the runaway success of "Furious

7"—has essentially proven, without a doubt, the new math of Hollywood: The money (especially in billion-form) is in franchises.

Author and journalist Mark Harris on Grantland mourned the success of "Jurassic World" as the death of something else: "what used to be the backbone of Hollywood moviemaking, namely self-contained, non-repeatable scripts, now threatens to become an anomaly, a char-

ity act, a niche, a tithe to awards season, or a skippable option."

What's striking about this new wave of franchise frenzy is that it's not even taking Hollywood's A-game. "Jurassic World" was virtually assured of making gobs of money, but few expected it to be the biggest summer hit of all time. "As disposable as used Kleenex," is how movie blogger David Poland of Movie City News described it, echoing the sentiments of most critics.



AP
This photo provided by Universal Pictures shows, Nick Robinson, left, as Zach, and Ty Simpkins as Gray, in a scene from the film, "Jurassic World," directed by Colin Trevorrow, in the next installment of Steven Spielberg's groundbreaking "Jurassic Park" series.

Music mogul Diddy's rep: He was defending himself

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean “Diddy” Combs was defending himself in an incident at the University of California, Los Angeles, that led to his arrest, a representative for the hip-hop mogul said Tuesday.

“The various accounts of the event and charges that are being reported are wholly inaccurate,” Nathalie Moar, a rep for Combs, said in a statement to The Associated Press. “What we can say

now is that any actions taken by Mr. Combs were solely defensive in nature to protect himself and his son.”

Combs was arrested Monday for an alleged assault involving a weight-room kettlebell at the athletic facilities of UCLA, where his son plays football, a university statement said.

Combs, 45, was freed late Monday after posting bail, several hours after his afternoon ar-

rest, jail records showed.

University police allege three counts of assault with a deadly weapon, one count of making terrorist threats and one count of battery, according to a UCLA statement.

“We are confident that once the true facts are revealed, the case will be dismissed,” Moar said in the statement.

Officials did not say who was allegedly assaulted or what led



AP
In this July 26, 2013 file photo, Sean “Diddy” Combs of the new network Revolt TV addresses reporters at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

to it. No one was seriously injured, police said.

The jail records show that Combs’ bail was \$160,000, but sheriff’s officials reached by phone said he posted \$50,000. The reason for the discrepancy wasn’t clear.

Combs’ son Justin Combs is a redshirt junior defensive back on the UCLA football team, which has been working out on campus. He has played in just a handful of games in his three years with the team.

The son of another major rap star also plays football for the Bruins. Snoop Dogg’s son Cordell Broadus is a wide receiver who signed with the team this year.

Football coach Jim Mora thanked his staff for their professionalism in handling the situation.

“This is an unfortunate incident for all parties involved,” Mora said in the statement from campus police. “While UCPD continues to review this matter,

we will let the legal process run its course and refrain from further comment at this time.”

The arrest, first reported by TMZ, is the latest of several allegations of violence by Sean Combs.

He was acquitted of bribery and weapons-related charges in connection with a 1999 shooting at a New York nightclub. A jury cleared him of firing a weapon during the dispute that wounded three bystanders, as well as bribing his chauffeur to take the rap.

Combs was arrested in 1999 for his involvement in the beating of former Interscope executive Steve Stoute in New York. Combs apologized, the charges were reduced, and he was ordered to attend an anger management class.

Combs and Stoute have since mended their relationship, appearing on stage together at Cannes in 2013.

Earlier this year, an Arizona man accused Combs of punching him in the face at a Super Bowl party. Combs was not arrested.

Bieber guard gets jail time for incident with photographer

ATLANTA (AP)—A security guard for Justin Bieber who police said admitted taking a camera from a photographer has been ordered to serve 45 days in jail.

Hugo Hesny, 33, was indicted in March 2014 on felony charges of robbery and entering a vehicle in connection with the episode in the Atlanta suburb of Sandy Springs last year. Under a deal reached with prosecutors, he pleaded no contest last week to two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, according to court records.

Fulton County Superior

Court Judge Ural Glanville ordered him to serve 45 days in jail and 22 months and 15 days on probation, as well as to perform 200 hours of community service.

Hesny was sentenced under Georgia’s first offender statute, meaning it won’t appear as a conviction in his criminal history once he completes the terms of his sentence.

Photographer Jason Winslow told police he was trying to shoot photos of Bieber outside an arcade in Sandy Springs in February 2014 when Hesny

told him to leave. Winslow said Hesny chased him, cut him off, opened the door of Winslow’s vehicle and took his camera.

Hesny initially told police he didn’t take the camera, but after officers found it in an SUV used by the singer’s entourage, Hesny said he wanted only to delete photos taken outside the arcade, according to a police report.

In another case out of Florida, a photographer accused Hesny of grabbing him by the neck and pushing him outside The Hit Factory recording studio in Miami in June 2013.

Nickelback cancels tour, lead singer readies vocal surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Nickelback is canceling its summer tour as lead singer Chad Kroeger has been diagnosed with an operable cyst on his voice box.

The band posted a statement and a video on its website Tuesday about canceling the rest of its 2015 No Fixed Address North American Tour.

Kroeger will have surgery in three weeks and will have to rest after, the band wrote in a statement. Ticket refunds will be available at the point of purchase.

Kroeger said he’s “definitely not thrilled with the prospect of being silent for many weeks to come when I could be out there playing for our fans.”

Nickelback plans to hit the road in Europe this fall. Their hits include “How You Remind Me” and “Photograph.”



AP
In this Nov. 24, 2011 file photo, Nickelback lead vocalist Chad Kroeger and his band perform during halftime of an NFL football game between the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers in Detroit.

Conrad Hilton accused of violating restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say Paris Hilton’s younger brother, Conrad Hilton, has been arrested at his ex-girlfriend’s Hollywood Hills home on suspicion of violating a restraining order.

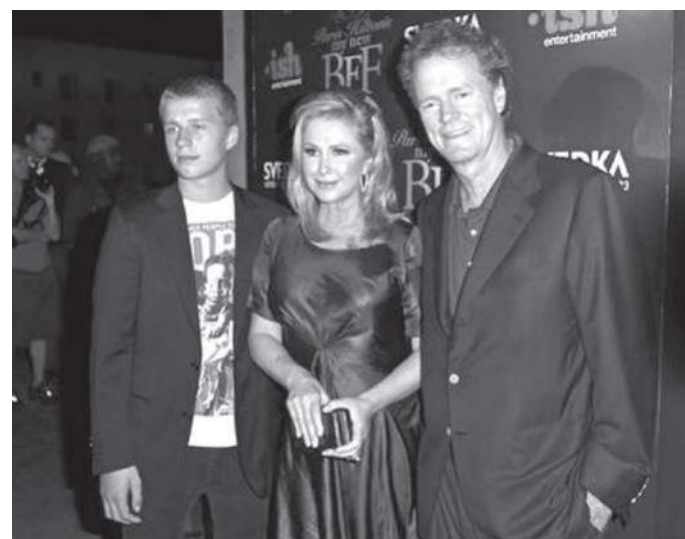
Officer Lilita Preciado says the woman called police Monday afternoon to say Conrad Hilton was trying to gain access to her property.

The 21-year-old was taken into custody without incident. He was later released on \$5,000 bail.

Preciado says Hilton was under a court order preventing him from contacting his ex-girlfriend or members of her family.

His attorney, Robert Shapiro, did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Hilton is the great-grandson



AP
In this Sept. 30, 2008, file photo, Conrad Hilton, left, Kathy Hilton, center, and Rick Hilton arrive at the launch party of new MTV series “Paris Hilton’s My New BFF” in Los Angeles.

of hotel magnate Conrad Hilton. He was sentenced this month to community service, a fine and

mental health and substance abuse treatment for disrupting a British Airways flight last July.

Burden of supporting family keeps teen under mom’s roof

DEAR ABBY: I’m almost 20. I have a well-paying job and live with my mother in a small town. My issue is I don’t know how to break away from her.

My older siblings still live here, too. They don’t help pay rent, utilities, groceries or anything. Mom and I pay for everything in a house of six people. My boyfriend and I have discussed living together, but I don’t know how I will ever be able to leave. No one else helps Mom, and I don’t want her to lose the house.

I know the solution is “everyone will have to pay their way.” But they don’t, and Mom won’t enforce it. I want to help her because she’s my mother, but I have my own life and I can’t stay here forever.

How should I approach this with her? I don’t want there to be bad feelings. I don’t know if I’m selfish wanting to move in with my boyfriend, but I want a life of my own.

STUCK IN THE WEST

DEAR STUCK: If your mother can’t keep her house on her own, there are serious problems ahead for her. If she doesn’t have the income to afford it, she may have to find a job or sell it.

It should not be your responsibility to support the family. Your siblings aren’t contributing to the household because your mother has been enabling them to avoid it. Have a private

conversation with her. Tell her you plan to move out, so you are giving her plenty of notice and a departure date.

I caution you, however, against moving in with your boyfriend if it’s because of a desire to escape this unfair situation. It would be better for you to be economically independent and have experienced living on your own before moving in with anyone. That way, you will be less vulnerable should the romance not work out as envisioned, because not all of them do.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: One of my friends who I work with is getting married this summer. She recently asked me for my address and, since we also went to school together, asked me to give her a few other friends’ addresses as well. So imagine my surprise when my friends all received invitations to her wedding in the mail and I did not.

I think it’s possible that my invitation legitimately was lost in the mail or it may have been an honest oversight. However, I realize it’s also possible that she wants to keep her wedding small and decided against inviting me.

How do I politely ask if I’m invited to her wedding? I’ve tried bringing up the subject in conversation at work, but I’m afraid it would be rude to directly ask if I’m still invited. I consider her a good friend and get along great with her fiancé, so I’m thinking it was an honest mistake.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TIRED OF BEING “MINNESOTA NICE”

DEAR TIRED: I don’t think that being direct would be rude. Because you consider her a good friend, ask whether your wedding invitation could have been lost in the mail because it’s possible it may have been. If she responds that you are not invited, you’ll not only know where you stand, but also that SHE is NOT “Minnesota Nice.”

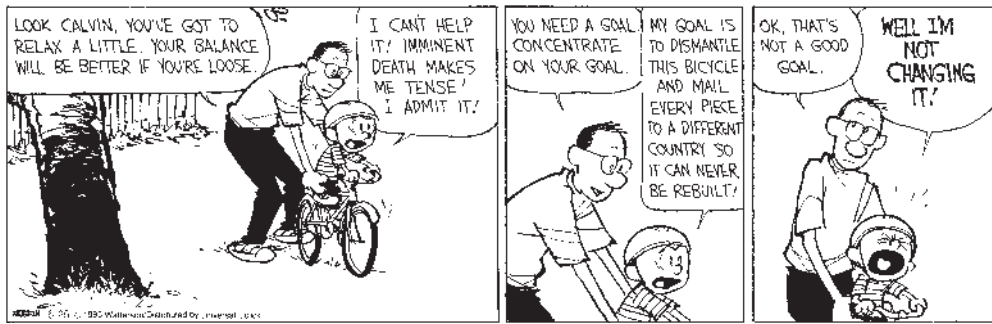
■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



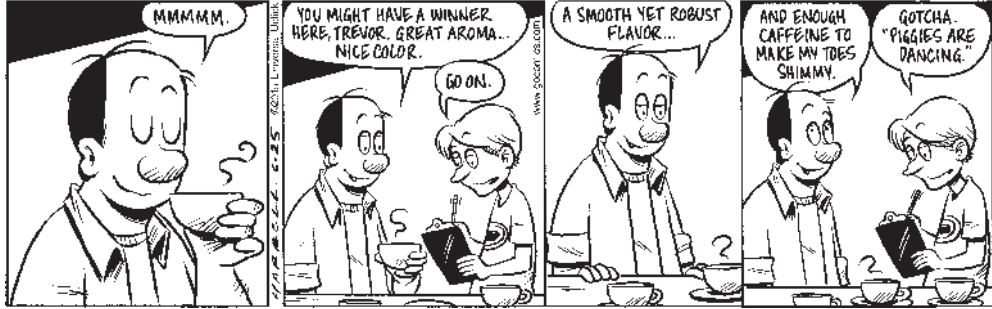
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

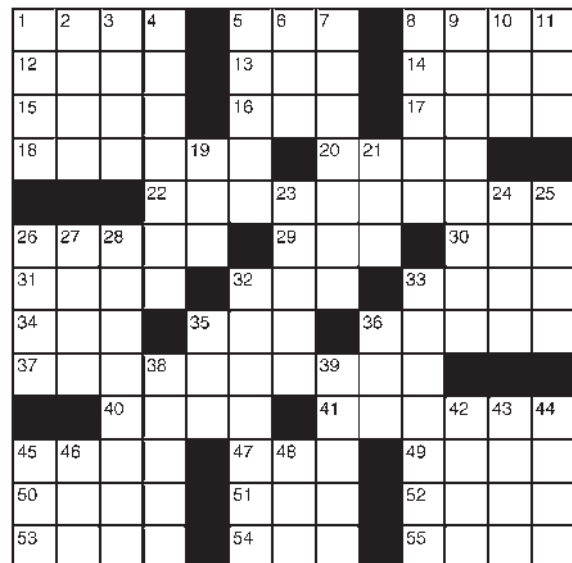
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Forbid-
den (Var.)
- 5 Actress
Thurman
- 8 Chaste
- 12 Unsigned
(Abbr.)
- 13 Persona-
grata link
- 14 A single
time
- 15 Hexago-
nal state
- 16 Space-
craft
compart-
ment
- 17 Cicatrix
- 18 Long,
harsh
speech
- 20 Bar
- 22 With
feet
turned
inward
- 26 Froot —
- 29 Little
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- 30 Attempt
- 31 Partner
- 32 Addition-
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- 33 Actor
LaBeauf
- 34 Mid-
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- 35 Ostrich's
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- 36 Enthusi-
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- 37 Fit
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- 40 List-
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- 41 Zurer of
"Dare-
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- 45 Quaker
pronoun
- 47 Space
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- 50 Saharan
- 51 Hearty
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- 52 Bridle
part
- 53 Gilligan's
home
- 54 Wire
measure
- 55 Hardly a
purebred
- DOWN**
- 1 Lacking
slack
- 2 Con
- 3 Wild
porker
- 4 Blue
- 5 Let
off the
hook?
- 6 Cattle
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- 7 C-3P0,
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- 8 Suggest,
as a
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- 9 Strip
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- 10 Always,
in verse
- 11 Insult
- 21 Pismire
- 23 Boredom
- 24 Green
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- 25 Twosome
- 26 Set down
- 27 Medley
- 28 Salad
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ingredient
- 32 Blend
of a sort
- 33 Weapon
- 35 Greek H
- 36 Tina of
"30 Rock"
- 38 Chopin
piece
- 39 Bouton-
niere
site
- 42 Stead
- 43 Tend
texts
- 44 Circus
shelter
- 45 Mai —
- 46 Storefront
sign
abbr.
- 48 — Baba

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-25



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Busy Phillips, 36; Linda Cardellini, 40; Ricky Gervais, 54; Carly Simon, 70.

Happy Birthday: Your insight and curiosity will lead you in new directions. Before you take a leap of faith, be sure you are heading in a direction that is in your best interests. Try to be a leader rather than a follower. Size up your situation and do what will bring you the highest returns. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 20, 28, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work on being the best you can be instead of criticizing others, and you will avoid an argument and the possible loss of a good friend. Diplomacy and humility will give you the edge when faced with controversy. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Show what you have to offer. A practical approach will help you avoid being misled by an offer that has grand expectations but little substance. Stick to what you know. Avoid purchasing items that promise the impossible. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Assess your situation at home and consider the changes you want to make. Follow your heart and explore the possibilities that interest you the most. Love is on the rise, and romance will improve your emotional outlook. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An emotional situation will take an unexpected turn. Don't let your anger take over. Try to bide your time and focus on something that you enjoy doing alone. Using force or emotional tactics will backfire. ★★



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will gain popularity and respect if you lend a helping hand. You will impress people with your generosity and compassion both at home and at work. A professional change will take you by surprise. Make a decision based on your long-term happiness. ★★★★★



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems at work won't go away easily. Confront whatever situation you face with caution. Not everyone will view the situation the same way you do. Have a well-thought-out plan in place to ensure your job security. ★★★



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel and communication will be met with delays and setbacks. Don't try to accomplish the impossible. Set realistic goals and don't promise more than you can deliver. Spend time primping, pampering and preparing for a little romance. ★★★



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep an eye on your money and your possessions. Look over investments and make sure you have the correct beneficiaries in place. Someone will take advantage of you if you aren't careful. Don't share personal information. A friend will test your patience. ★★★

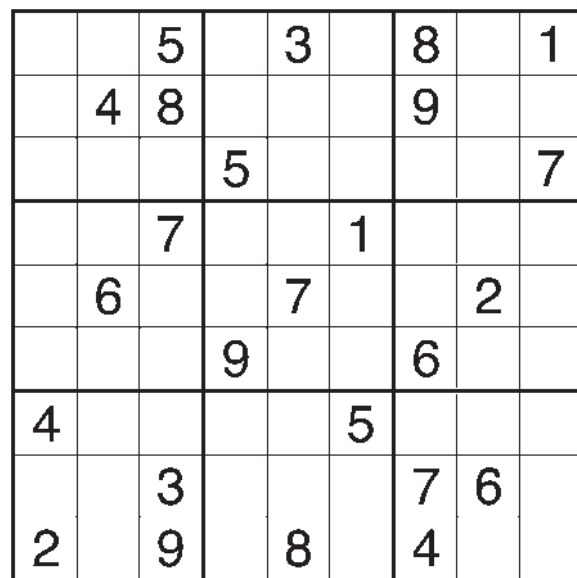


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional situations will play out in your favor. Take a day trip or travel to a location that is geared toward self-improvement. Knowledge, skills and physical transformations will all contribute to added confidence and greater popularity. Romance should be scheduled for the evening hours. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

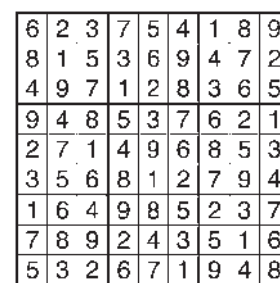


Difficulty Level ★★★

6/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

6/25

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There will be a fine line between a good and a bad investment. Don't be tempted to follow what someone else does. Choose the most effective way to secure your financial future. Don't let someone's emotional manipulation lead you astray. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Embrace a challenge, adventure or project that excites you. A partnership will flourish if you share your ideas and collaborate to reach your goal. Romance will improve your personal life and bring about changes to the way you live. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put tender, loving care into your residence, or consider making a move. An unusual idea can be a turning point for you when it comes to how you earn your living. Seek out information that will enable you to improve your status. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are generous, mindful and popular. You are unique and entertaining.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

D.B. KING (1925-2015)

Solution: 7 letters



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Albert, Apollo, Baby, Bayou, Believer, Berclair, Blues, Claudette, Definitive, Deuces Wild, Elnora, Fluid, Freddie, Gold, Guitarist, Hits, Indianola, King Size, Lang, Legend, Live, Love, Martha Lee, Mississippi, Nights, Nora Ella, Patty, Poems, Rain, Reflections, Regal, Riding, Riley, Rise, Shirley, Singer, Sue Carol, Sweet Sixteen, Tour, Vintage

Yesterday's Answer: Reporter

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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2-Auto Mechanic, 2-Auto Painter & 2-Body Repairer. Please call United Brothers Inc. at 323-1328

2-Radiology Technologist (x-ray), \$10.00/hr. Call Precision Medical Imaging, LLC Tel. #233-4582.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Auto Marine Inc. is seeking for (1) Commercial Diver Must have at least 5 years experience in SCUBA Diving

Interested applicants, please call Mr. Adonis Santos at 323-2916

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- Certification in tutorial is a plus
- CDD Certification Required

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JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Must be willing to work on flexible hours, shifts, evening, holiday and weekends.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 6 months to a year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

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- Ability to make upholstery and other repairs to furniture and interior of vehicles.
- Good knowledge of upholstery materials selections.
- Salary: Negotiable

Special consideration will be given to any individual who is eager to pursue a professional career as an Upholsterer.

V-KOOL Marianas USA LLC is looking for

Window Film installer "Film Specialist": (3) Positions (SAIPAN)

- Considerable knowledge of the industrial practices of adhesive window film installation.
- Ability to work with varieties of window films and window glass surfaces and must not afraid of height.
- Ability to work independent with minimum supervision.
- Salary: Negotiable

Special consideration will be given to any individual who is eager to pursue a professional career as a Film Specialist.

Submit a typed resume or call 670-235-8938 to arrange for an interview before or on **July 3rd, 2015** at 3A'S POLYSHINE, CK, Beach Road.

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/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

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Brady appeal hearing ends after more than 10 hours

NEW YORK (AP)—After a 10-hour hearing, Tom Brady now must wait to find out if his appeal of a four-game suspension carried any weight with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Brady was suspended by the league for his role in the use of deflated footballs in the AFC championship game win over Indianapolis. He arrived at the NFL's Park Avenue offices Tuesday morning, as did attorney Jeffrey Kessler, who is leading Brady's defense.

It was growing dark when Goodell left the league headquarters after he heard Brady and representatives from the players' union during the lengthy meeting. League security said Brady also had left.

No details of the hearing were immediately available.

"I think we put in a very compelling case," Kessler said, adding that no timetable on a decision by Goodell had been given.

Kessler said he would have no further comments Tuesday night, and neither the union nor the league immediately commented.

This was the latest step in the protracted "Deflategate" scandal, and no decisions were expected Tuesday.

Indeed, it is uncertain how soon Goodell will announce anything; he could decide to keep the suspension as it is, reduce it or completely wipe it clean.

With training camps set to open in five weeks, the commissioner has some time to consider the evidence presented at the



AP
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady arrives for his appeal hearing at NFL headquarters in New York, Tuesday, June 23, 2015. Brady and representatives from the players' union are meeting with Commissioner Roger Goodell as the New England quarterback appeals his four-game suspension.

hearing. But the Patriots also can't finalize training camp practice plans for the quarterback position until they know Brady's availability for the 2015 season.

Should Goodell keep the four-game ban—or even if he reduces it but doesn't dismiss it totally—Brady could go to court. That could delay any solution for months.

On Tuesday, as Goodell was hearing a myriad of testimonies, Brady supporters were outside,

some wearing "Free Brady" T-shirts. At least until the rains came, that is.

Some reporters joked that the meeting lasted so long because a summer storm was hitting the city and no one wanted to leave the building in such weather.

But just past 8:30 p.m. EDT, the principles headed out.

The NFL Players Association had asked Goodell to recuse himself from hearing the appeal because he could not be impar-

tial and might be called as a witness. But Goodell said it was his responsibility to oversee the hearing to protect the integrity of the league.

Based on the league-sanctioned Wells report, Brady was suspended and the Patriots were fined \$1 million and docked a pair of draft picks.

Among the key elements of Brady's appeal: who ordered his four-game suspension and whether science supports the

league's findings about deflated footballs.

The NFL says Goodell authorized the discipline that was imposed by league executive Troy Vincent, who signed the letters sent to Brady and the Patriots informing them of the penalties. The NFLPA challenged Vincent's power to issue punishment, citing Article 46 of the league's collective bargaining agreement.

Goodell dismissed the union's claim.

"I did not delegate my disciplinary authority to Mr. Vincent; I concurred in his recommendation and authorized him to communicate to Mr. Brady the discipline imposed under my authority as Commissioner," Goodell said in his letter to the union on June 2. "The identity of the person who signed the disciplinary letter is irrelevant."

The penalties were announced after investigator Ted Wells found that the Super Bowl champions illegally used under-inflated footballs in the AFC title game.

Goodell issued punishments to Greg Hardy, Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice in recent, high-profile cases involving players violating the league's personal conduct policy. The league doesn't consider Brady's case similar because it involved rules of the game.

Scientific arguments also were a major part of Brady's defense. Brady's lawyers tried to shoot down the findings of an independent firm hired to provide scientific analysis of the air pressure inside the footballs used by the Patriots and Colts during the AFC title game.

Cavs pick up option for Mozgov, other decisions ahead



CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers made their first move of the summer, the easiest one.

As expected, the team picked up the \$5 million option on center Timofey Mozgov's contract for next season on Tuesday.

There was never a doubt the Cavs would bring back the 7-foot-1 center, acquired in a January trade from Denver in exchange for two first-round draft picks.

Mozgov transformed the Cavs on defense, giving them a rim-protecting big man after Anderson Varejao was lost for the season with an Achilles injury.

Mozgov, who will turn 29 in a few weeks, averaged a career-high 10.6 points and 6.9 rebounds in 45 regular-season starts. He became a needed offensive option during the postseason when Kevin Love sustained a playoff-ending shoulder injury. And Mozgov responded by averaging 10.6 points and 7.3 rebounds in 20 postseason starts.

In Game 4 of the finals, he scored 28 points against Golden State.

Coach David Blatt credited the arrival of Mozgov along

with guards J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert from New York in helping turn around the season for the Cavs, who were 19-20 in mid-January.

In the next few weeks, the Cavs have other pressing roster issues, including trying to sign superstar LeBron James to a long-term contract extension.

When he returned last summer after four seasons in Miami, James signed a two-year, \$42.2 million contract which included the ability to opt out of his deal after the first year.

General manager David Griffin said last week that he expects both James and Love to opt out of their contracts, but he's confident both want to return to a Cleveland team that came within two wins of an NBA title despite being undermanned.

"I think everybody who has the potential to opt out in this climate probably will," Griffin said, "and I anticipate that we've created the kind of environment and culture that they want to be part of. I have no reason to believe that any of those players don't want to be back, quite frankly."

James can wait until next week to inform the Cavs of his intentions. Although the 30-year-

old Ohio native has indicated he will spend the rest of his career with Cleveland, the Cavs would still like to have his name on a lengthy deal just in case.

But with the NBA's salary cap set to soar when a new TV deal kicks in at the start of the 2016-17 season, James may wait to cash in even bigger.

Love's deadline to opt out is Thursday night, when the Cavs will pick 24th in the draft.

Last summer, they packaged top overall selection Andrew Wiggins in a blockbuster, three-team trade with Minnesota to acquire Love, a former All-Star who put up solid numbers with the Cavs, but didn't always seem to be thrilled about his new surroundings or role.

During Cleveland's postseason run, Love said he would be back next season, but the question now is whether the 26-year-old wants to be with the Cavs long term.

If he hits the open market, Love will certainly draw interest from other teams. But none of them has James - or Kyrie Irving - and none can offer as much money as Cleveland can.

If he's OK playing third fiddle and wants the best chance at winning a title, Cleveland appears to be his best option.

SIDEBAR

No. 4 pick, cap space, give Jackson tools to rebuild

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Had Phil Jackson been discussing his six championships with Chicago, nobody would argue.

If he meant the five more he won coaching the Lakers, he'd have been correct.

But when he said Tuesday he did a "great job," he was referring to last season, his first as president of basketball operations for the New York Knicks.

That's a 17-65 season that was the worst in franchise history, for any Knicks fans who've been trying to forget.

It was bad enough to make anyone wonder if Jackson, whose 11 championships are the most of any NBA coach, was cut out for the job of executive.

Now he can prove he is.

With the No. 4 pick in the draft and another \$25 million or so to spend in free agency, the Knicks are in position to be offseason winners.

To Jackson, that started with last season's losing.

"I did a great job last year shedding things, getting us in position where we have this flexibility," he said.

He was referring to trades

that moved Tyson Chandler, J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert, which helped the bottom line but didn't yield enough in return and dragged the Knicks toward the bottom of the standings.

Jackson had arrived for his first front-office job saying he believed the Knicks could compete for a playoff spot. Instead, Jackson lost right from the start (preferred coaching candidate Steve Kerr instead took the Golden State job and won the title) to the finish (the Knicks were the only team to drop in the lottery, falling from No. 2 to fourth).

It was unusual and somewhat unprecedented failure for someone who never had a losing season as an NBA head coach and won two more titles as a player with the Knicks. Instead of resting on that success and enjoying a comfortable retirement across the country, he committed to rebuilding a team that hasn't won since he was part of the latter title winners in 1973.

Skeptics contend he's in the job for the money and won't be for long. He rarely travels to road games, mostly for health reasons and has said he

leaves dealing with agents to general manager Steve Mills. He was even asked Tuesday what a team president does.

"Presides," he said. "That's it."

He's doing much more. Three months before he will turn 70 and after years of hip and knee problems, Jackson is working much harder than he did last spring, when the Knicks didn't have a first-round pick.

"Last year at this time I was at a wedding in Turkey," he said. "I did get back in time a couple of days before the draft, but this is the day I came back."

He has been in the gym attending draft workouts and traveled to Chicago to interview players at the draft combine, searching for what he identifies as needs that go beyond shooting and rebounding.

He might not find the franchise big man he'd like, but he won't stop searching for willing passers on the court and thoughtful teammates off it.

"We're looking for players that are both trainable physically and socially," he said.

Strasburg solid in return, Nationals beat Braves



WASHINGTON—Stephen Strasburg's return from the disabled list was delayed over two hours by an intense thunderstorm.

Strasburg was pretty intense himself.

The right-hander pitched five shutout innings in his return from the disabled list, Anthony Rendon tied his career-high with four hits and the Washington Nationals defeated the Atlanta Braves 3-1 on Tuesday night.

"Obviously I've been working really hard to get things going in the right direction," said Strasburg, who came in with a 6.55 ERA.

Strasburg (4-5), who missed 21 games with neck tightness, was resilient in his return. He allowed baserunners in four of five innings, but left with his first scoreless start this season.

"He was aggressive," manager Matt Williams said. "It helps when you feel good. He used his fastball a lot."

Strasburg used his time on the disabled list to work on his mechanics, and to seek advice from teammates.

"Talking to a lot of guys in the clubhouse while I was away really kind of shed some light, what my strengths, what my weaknesses are," he said, "and I really just tried to pitch to my strengths."

Strasburg allowed four hits and a walk while striking out six. He was lifted after throwing 94 pitches in a game that was delayed 2 hours and 12 minutes at the start.

"Five strong innings for us," Williams said. "Tonight he had some (pitch count) limitations. The next time out he won't have any."

Strasburg came in 4-7 with a 4.24 ERA against the Braves and hadn't beaten them at home since 2012.

"We battled a lot, tried to get his pitch count up, maybe try to do something against the bullpen, but their bullpen came in and did pretty well," Atlanta's Chris Johnson said.

Washington's David Carpenter came on to retire Juan Uribe with two men on in the eighth.

Drew Storen pitched a scoreless ninth—despite loading the bases—for his 21st save.

Wilson Ramos added three hits for the Nationals, who have won four straight while allowing a total of four runs.

Cameron Maybin homered in the eighth inning, and Nick Markakis had three hits for Atlanta.

Alex Wood (4-5) allowed three runs and 10 hits over seven innings.

Atlanta struggled to score without first baseman Freddie Freeman, a career .340 hitter against Washington. Freeman, who has been out since last Thursday, went on the disabled list Tuesday with a bruised right wrist.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, right-hander Carlos Martinez shook off a slow start and a fastball that hit him in the right shoulder to pitch seven innings, helping the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Miami Marlins 4-3 Tuesday.

Martinez (8-3) trailed 3-0 after 1 1/3 innings before settling down. He retired the final seven batters he faced, including three after taking a 94-mph fastball in the shoulder while trying to bunt in the seventh.

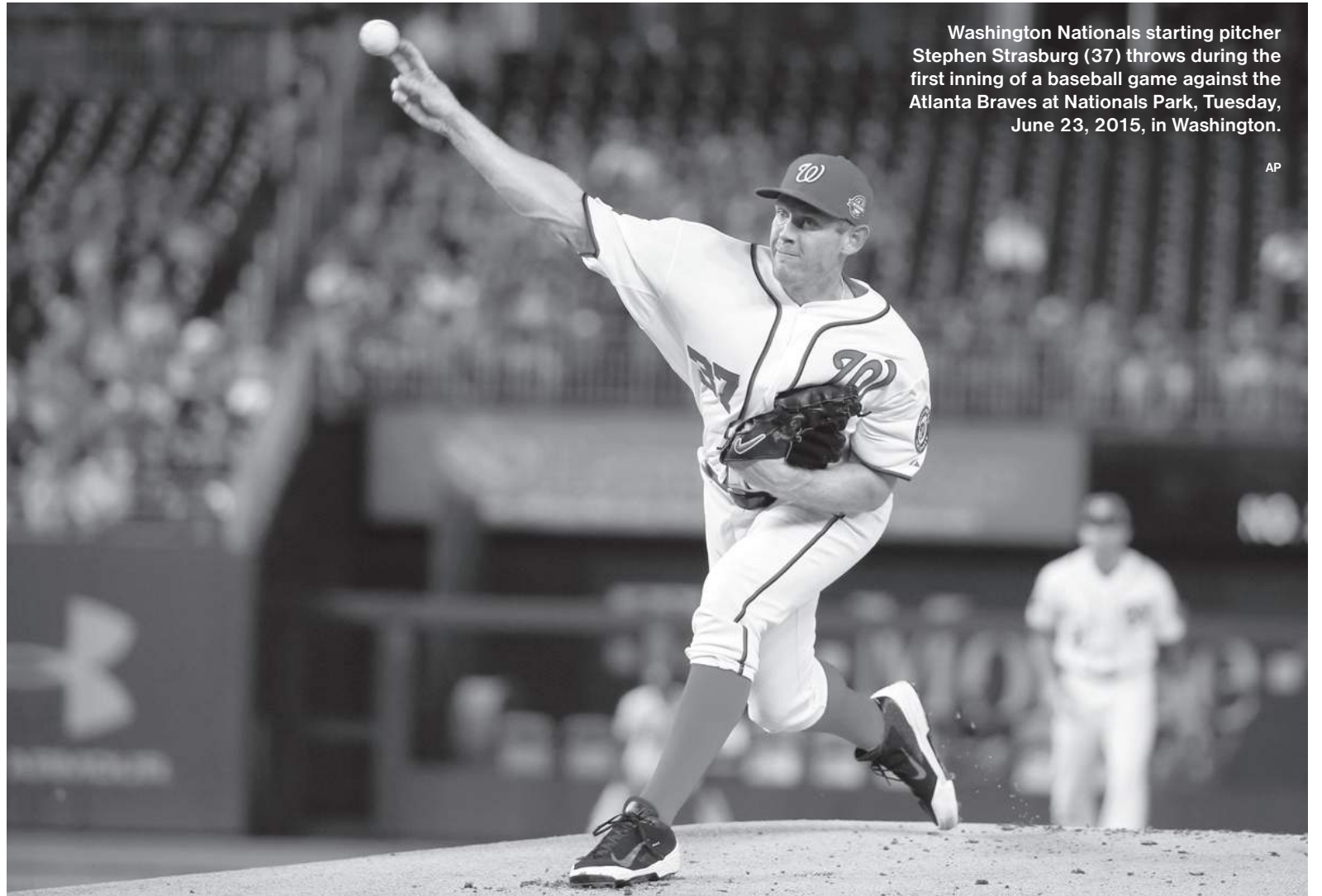
Martinez struck out nine and allowed eight hits. He gave up a two-run homer in the first inning to major league home run and RBI leader Giancarlo Stanton, a shot estimated at 484 feet.

Cubs 1, Dodgers 0, 10 innings

In Chicago, Chris Denorfia hit a game-ending sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and Chicago beat Los Angeles for its fourth consecutive victory.

The Cubs loaded the bases with no outs in the 10th on two singles and a walk. Dodgers manager Don Mattingly then replaced Joel Peralta (1-1) with Kenley Jansen and brought the infield in.

Los Angeles got one out when Addison Russell bounced into a fielder's choice, with first baseman Adrian Gonzalez juggling the ball before making a strong throw to the plate. But Denorfia followed with a line drive to center that Joc Pederson brought in on the run, giving him no chance of making a play.



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg (37) throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves at Nationals Park, Tuesday, June 23, 2015, in Washington.

AP

Phillies 11, Yankees 6

In New York, rookie slugger Maikel Franco homered again and had five RBI for the second straight night at Yankee Stadium, snapping a ninth-inning tie with a two-run double that sent Philadelphia to a victory over New York.

Franco lofted a three-run shot to the short porch in right field and Cameron Rupp hit his first major league homer for the Phillies, who handed lights-out reliever Dellin Betances his first major league loss in 110 career appearances.

Philadelphia, which began the night with the worst record and fewest runs in the majors, has totaled 31 runs while winning three in a row for the first time since a six-game streak May 13-18.

Mariners 7, Royals 0

In Seattle, rookie Mike Montgomery tossed a four-hitter against the team that drafted him, Dustin Ackley singled, doubled and homered for his first three-hit game of the season and Seattle beat Kansas City.

Montgomery (2-2) became the second Mariners pitcher this season to toss a complete game, joining Felix Hernandez, and he became the 10th rookie in Seattle history to toss a complete game. Montgomery retired 17 straight batters at one point, striking out a career-high 10 and allowing only two base runners after the second inning.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Tampa Bay's Chris Archer won his sixth straight decision, allowing three hits over eight innings in a victory over Toronto.

Brandon Guyer and Joey Butler had RBI singles for the Rays, with a wild pitch and passed ball setting up both runs off knuckleballer R.A. Dickey (3-7). The Rays scored a third run off the Toronto starter with help from centerfielder Kevin Pillar's throwing error and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a solo homer off Steve Delabar for a 4-2 lead in the eighth.

Edwin Encarnacion's solo homer off Brad Boxberger, who earned his 19th save, trimmed Toronto's deficit to one run in the ninth.

Astros 13, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Luis Valbuena homered twice and touted rookie Carlos Correa hit a mammoth three-run shot off C.J. Wilson, powering Houston Astros to a rout of Los Angeles.

The AL West-leading Astros have homered in 10 straight games, their longest streak since a 12-game

stretch in 2007. They lead the majors with 107 home runs and 31 multihomer games, improving their record to 29-2 when they've hit more than one.

Collin McHugh (8-3) pitched a season-high eight innings, allowing two runs on nine hits and striking out six. The right-hander escaped a bases-loaded jam in the first after a two-out intentional walk to AL home run leader Albert Pujols.

Brewers 3, Mets 2

In Milwaukee, Carlos Gomez scored the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning when outfielder Michael Cuddyer misplayed a double off the wall, helping Milwaukee beat injury-riddled New York.

Gomez had yet to reach third on Adam Lind's double down the left-field line off Sean Gilmartin when the ball took a high hop off the side wall on Cuddyer. The ball bounced just over Cuddyer's glove and trickled through his legs, allowing Gomez to score.

New York lost its sixth straight, falling to .500 (36-36) for the first time since it was 3-3 on April 12.

Pirates 7, Reds 6

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen and Francisco Cervelli homered during a fourth-inning outburst and Pittsburgh ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Cincinnati.

Cervelli hit a three-run homer off Cincinnati rookie starter Josh Smith and McCutchen followed with a two-run shot off reliever Pedro Villarreal (0-2). McCutchen and Josh Harrison had two hits each for Pittsburgh.

Rob Scahill (2-3) earned the win in relief of ineffective starter Jeff Locke. Mark Melancon worked a perfect ninth to pick up his major league-leading 24th save.

Athletics 8, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Josh Phegley homered and had a two-run double, Ben Zobrist also went deep and Oakland beat Texas in a series opener.

Phegley's double chased rookie Chi Chi Gonzalez (2-2) and tied the game at 5 in the sixth. Phegley scored on Marcus Semien's RBI single to put the A's ahead to stay.

Oakland is 18-11 since being 16 games under .500 on May 22.

Rougned Odor had a two-run homer among his three hits for the Rangers, who have their first three-game losing streak since May 14-16.

Rockies 10, Diamondbacks 5

In Denver, Nolan Arenado hit two home runs, including a go-ahead three-run shot in Colorado's six-run fifth inning, and the Rockies rallied to beat Arizona.

Wilin Rosario, D.J. LeMahieu and Brandon Barnes also homered to help Kyle Kendrick (3-9) win at Coors Field for the first time in seven home starts since signing with Colorado in the offseason as a free agent. The game included a 38-minute weather delay because of lightning and a brief downpour.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 4

In Boston, David Lough hit a three-run homer in Baltimore's four-run second inning and the Orioles beat Boston for their 12th win in 15 games.

The Red Sox had a chance to tie it in the ninth after Dustin Pedroia's two-out, run-scoring double. But David Ortiz lined out to third as Zach Britton earned his 20th save.

Lough, starting for the sixth time in seven games in place of injured center fielder Adam Jones, connected off Joe Kelly (2-5) after a sacrifice fly by Ryan Flaherty.

Tigers 7, Indians 3

In Cleveland, David Price allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings and Detroit scored six times in the fifth to continue its dominance over Cleveland.

The Tigers are 9-2 against the Indians and have won all five games at Progressive Field this season. Detroit is 20-5 in Cleveland over the past three seasons.

Price (7-2) scattered nine hits and struck out seven. The left-hander is 9-1 in his last 11 starts against Cleveland, including a shutout at Comerica Park on June 12.

White Sox 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Jeff Samardzija struck out seven batters in seven innings for just his second win in nine starts on the road this season, and the White Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 6-2 Tuesday to snap a seven-game losing streak away from Chicago.

Geovany Soto had two RBI singles and Melky Cabrera drove in the go-ahead run on a two-out single seventh to give Samardzija (5-4) the victory, sending Twins starter Mike Pelfrey (5-4) to his first loss in seven starts at home this year.

Japan beats the Netherlands to reach quarterfinals

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Japan coach Norio Sasaki apologized for the stressful, flurry of a finish.

The defending Women's World Cup champions are on to the quarterfinal following a nail-biter at the end against tournament first-timer the Netherlands after controlling

most of the match.

Mizuho Sakaguchi scored what turned out to be the deciding goal in the 78th minute on a pretty left-footed shot from the top of the 18-yard box, and Japan held off a late attack and a close call in the waning moments to defeat the Dutch 2-1 on Tuesday night in the knock-

out stage.

"I'm sorry we kept you in suspense until the very end," Sasaki said with a smile. "I tried to have a one-sided, stable game but we always have these tense moments."

Kirsten van de Ven scored for the Dutch in stoppage time when the ball went off goalkeeper Ayu-

mi Kaihori's right arm. Three additional minutes had been added to the clock. The goalie put her gloves to her face in disbelief and said something to herself, then had to stay alert as the Dutch threatened once more before the final whistle.

Sakaguchi scored shortly after Japan nearly had an own goal. Sherida Spilse took a corner in the 76th and the ball deflected off Aya Sameshima toward her own net when Kaihori punched it away with her right fist.

"We are in the knockout stage so if we lost there would be nothing left, so I'm happy that we won," Sakaguchi said. "I went for a strike and I thought it was a long shot (in distance) and that's not my strength, but I thought I should try it."

Saori Ariyoshi found herself in perfect position when the Netherlands flubbed a clear and scored from the top of the box in the 10th minute for Japan's initial goal.

Japan overpowered the

young Dutch squad for much of the evening at BC Place by controlling possession in the midfield to create chances, and the defense pushed far up the field. The Nadeshiko, who along with Brazil were the only teams to win all three group-stage games, advance to the quarterfinal against Australia on Saturday at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium.

They stuck with their familiar World Cup trend, too. Five of Japan's six goals have come in the 29th minute or earlier, and all six have been scored by a different player.



Japan's Mana Iwabuchi fights for control of the ball with the Netherlands' Kirsten van de Ven during the second half of a round of 16 soccer match at the FIFA Women's World Cup, Tuesday, June 23, 2015, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

NMIFA to join Liberation Day parade

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is urging the different soccer clubs on island to join the Liberation Day Parade next weekend.

"It has been a tradition for NMIFA to join the annual 4th of July parade. This is a FIFA Women's World Cup Year and competitions are still ongoing on July 4. Thus, this is an opportunity to use the event as the theme for our participation, and further promote the sport of football in the CNMI," NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said in an email sent to NMIFA members.

NMIFA, which was formed in 2005, joined the Liberation Day Parade for the first time in 2006 with participants wearing the colors of the countries that competed in the 18th FIFA World Cup, which Germany hosted from June 9 to July 9, and alter-

nately hoisting a replica of the FIFA World Cup trophy. Other players who were in the parade wore their club uniforms, while NMIFA officials marched behind a large football.

Clubs joining this year's parade are requested to be in complete uniform and march under their respective banners.

"It will be an opportunity for each club to present their members/players to the community. To reflect a good image for our association, we request that all participating clubs carry their banners and each club require marching members to be in full uniform with matching jerseys, shorts, and socks. Please also remind parents and supporters who would like to join the parade to not line up with the

players, but to form a separate group at the tail-end of the NMIFA marching unit," Zapanta added.

NMIFA is also urging members of the referee committee to form a marching group for the parade and be in complete uniforms. Besides participating in the parade, NMIFA and the various clubs' players are also expected to demonstrate football drills at every stop of the festivities.

For more information, contact Jerish Angeles at the NMIFA office at 235-0173 and 285-7387 or send an email to jerish_angeles@saipansoccer-school.org. Interested clubs are advised to inform NMIFA of their participation in the parade on or before June 29. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



VICTORY

From Page 28

practicing together for more than two months. We believe we have strong pitching and a solid contingent of outfielders," Drapeau said.

The team is composed of players from different teams that competed in the Hong Kong Little League's last season from September 2014 to March 2015. Tryouts for the 14 spots at stake were held right after the season.

The Junior League team has a mix of eight Hong Kong-Chinese nationals, three Japanese,

two Americans, and one South Korean.

"The team is comprised of a melting pot of kids that is similar to the face of Hong Kong. My son Jonathan was actually born in Malaysia. While he is a U.S. citizen he has lived in China from shortly after birth to the age of 13. He is fluent in Mandarin," said Drapeau.

Kwok Yu Conrad, Koh Nakayama, Tam Ho Ki, Lee Taekwon, Tomiyama Yoki, Ao Cheuk Hin, Ng Wang Lok, Lo Go Yin, Fung Wing Hon, Shu Furukawa, Thomas Anthony Hill, Fong Tsz Hei, and Chiu

Lok Hang are the other members of Hong Kong's Junior League team.

Thomas Kim, Matthew Tung, Delorme Titouan, Taishi Ono, Major Lee, Zach Fried, Wilson Yu, Alex Hui, Max Fu, Ryan Vo, Alex Chan, Kidd Lau, and Yan Mak are on the roster of Hong Kong's Senior League squad, which is managed by Taylor Dozier.

Hong Kong's Senior League squad will have its first game against the Philippines this Saturday at 3pm, while the former's Junior League crew will take on defending Chinese-Taipei also on Saturday at 1pm.

Elims topnotcher Team X8 still alive

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Elimination round topnotcher Team X8 kept its title hopes alive in the 2015 Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association Indoor League summer season after a walkover win in last Tuesday night's matches at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team X8, which dropped an earlier match against Four, won by default against Set 2 Kill to set up a date with the The Power Express tonight 8pm. Four and Division of Youth Services were the two other teams that made it to the Final Four and will play

against each other also at 8pm tonight.

Four, which remains undefeated in the double elimination playoffs, and DYS are in the winners bracket, while X8 and Power dropped to the losers group.

The winner of the Four-DYS match will earn an automatic berth to next Tuesday's finals, June 30, while the loser will challenge the victor of the Power-X8 game at 9pm also on Thursday night.

The first team that enters the championship match enjoys a twice-to-beat edge. Game 1 of

the finals is on June 30 at 8pm and if needed, the finalists will again play at 9pm.

DYS boosted its finals bid and marched on to the winners bracket after escaping with a 25-20, 23-25, 15-13 triumph over Power. Power stayed alive after eliminating Managaha Express, 25-18, 25-12. Four also won by forfeit against Set 2 Kill.

The playoffs started last week where regular season topnotcher Team X8 got almost eliminated, but managed to cling on in the loser's bracket after going 1-1 in the double elimination format.



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Center, bagged the girls U12 crown in 2013 and notched her second and third singles titles last year after beating New Caledonia's Lea Bolo, 6-0, 6-1, and 7-6 (2), 6-1, in both finals of the POJC 1 and 2 competitions. This year, she is one of the favorites in the girls U16 singles.

Joining Lee on the North Pacific crew are U12's Conatsu and Coume Kaga, Ericka Tuttle, Seung Jin Paik, and Ji Min Woo; U14's Robbie Schorr, Vincent Tudela, Keon Song, Mimi Sakano, Asia Raulerson, Malika Miyawaki, and Tania Tan; and girls U16's Ami Tsukagoshi and Isabel Heras.

"Our players will be training on their own and when I get back early August, I will be working on their training

sessions. They have to train harder this time as the POCJ is a tougher tournament. I hope they will remain confident and focus so we can have another strong performance in Fiji," Race said.

Besides Lee, Race said regionals champions Conatsu Kaga, Tan, and Schorr are likely to make it to the playoffs in their respective age group contests in Fiji.

Conatsu, who ruled both the singles and doubles (with sister Coume) events of the regionals, has a strong chance to finish in the Top 3 in POJC, according to Race, while Tan and Schorr could complete the Top 4.

Conatsu had the highest winning percentage among the CNMI players who saw action in Guam last week. She posted 100 winning percentage in singles matches (5-0) and doubles (3-0) and also tallied 100

percent in sets won/won (16-0 combining singles and doubles). In singles, she won 60 games and gave up only 10, while she registered 36-6 in doubles for the overall percentage of 85.7 (games won/loss).

Tan, who took the girls U14 singles and doubles crown (with Miyawaki) was 60-9 in singles games won/loss for 87 percent and 36-8 in doubles for 81.8 percent and overall percentage of 85 (96-17). She was also unbeaten in eight matches, five in singles and three in doubles and did not give up a single set (16-0). The boys U14 champion Schorr was ranked third with his 69.9 percent (137-59 games won/loss for singles and doubles), had 80.8 in singles (80-19), and recorded 58.8 in doubles (57-40). He was perfect in the singles (6-0) and logged a 3-2 mark in doubles.

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ning for this event early this year," said Ada.

"The accommodations are set and the meals have been taken care off. The games facility is okay with DPW and gym staff working together to spruce up the Tan Ko baseball field," he added.

A steamroller was also used yesterday afternoon to make the dirt compact and flat in time for the opening match between the hosts and their southern neighbor and rival Guam.

A total of 48 games will be

played for 10 days, from June 26 to July 5, with the winners becoming the representatives of the region to the World Series—Junior League in Taylor, Michigan; Senior in Bangor, Maine; and Big League in Easley, South Carolina.

The Junior League teams of Guam and Australia arrived yesterday, while the flight of the Philippine team in the same division got delayed after some of its players' visas were not released on time. Organizers, however, assured that the Philippine Junior League team is set to plane in Thursday afternoon, while its Senior League squad

were scheduled to arrive at 1:25am this morning. The PH's Big leaguers arrived on Saipan last night.

Defending Junior League champion Chinese-Taipei and its Senior League team were also slated to arrive at 1:45am today, while the Guam Seniors were set to come in at 3:35am. Hong Kong's Junior League squad's arrival time was at 1:45am today, while its Senior team were expected to plane in at 8:05am.

Guam's Big leaguers will be the last team to arrive, early Friday morning and they will play against the CNMI at 3pm after the opening ceremony.

Saipan Times Open Badminton Team Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



The Red Tigers pose for a photo after a runner-up finish behind the Racket Roadrunners in the inaugural Saipan Times Open Badminton Team Tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.



The Badminators are the fourth finishers in the five-team tournament.



The Arm-a-tech Shuttlers are the third finishers in the tournament following an 18-12 decision over the Badminators.



The Sun Palace Smashers gather for a photo during the opening of the tournament.



Elna Curate, right, of the Red Tigers and teammate Jordan Pangilinan compete in the mixed doubles AB event.



Arm-a-tech Shuttlers captain Jongmin Lee, right, prepares to serve, while her mixed doubles partner Malou Malasarte looks on.



Rowena Sison serves, while Andreau Galvez of inaugural champions Racket Roadrunners gets ready for the return.



Sun Palace Smashers' Glenn Bluutjens, left, and Janelle Pangilinan in action in the mixed doubles A event.

Havika Farro of the Red Tigers, left, waits for the serve of the Roadrunners' Miles Rodriguez, center, while Lucelle Lampera looks on.



Deether Edralin, left, tries to smash the birdie, while her mixed double partner Ana Alvarez covers the frontcourt.



Brady appeal
hearing ends
after more
than 10 hours

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Strasburg
solid in return,
Nationals beat
Braves

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fundamentals will be key to Hong Kong victory

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Hong Kong Junior
League players and officials
pose for a group photo.

Hong Kong coach Bob Drapeau believes that both their Junior and Senior league teams need to stick to the fundamentals of baseball to emerge victorious in the 2015 Junior, Senior, and Big League Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament.

Hong Kong's Junior and Senior league squads were scheduled to arrive on Saipan via Asiana Airlines flight 625, early Thursday morning (1:50am)

in time for the ASPAC opening. The annual Little League baseball event, which offers one berth each to the three divisions' World Series, is set from June

26 to July 5 at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. Drapeau will join his squads later as he will be arriving at 8am on Friday and staying at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, while both Hong Kong teams are billeted at the Mango Resort.

Drapeau, who will be assisting Hong Kong Junior League team manager Thomas Harrison Hill, said their teams must stick to their game plan and keep in mind the basic skills used in batting,



pitching, and picking up ground balls.

"For our teams to be successful in this regional tournament on Saipan, we will have to play good fundamental baseball and keep our errors to a minimum," added Drapeau,

whose son Jonathan Lim Drapeau is a member of the Junior League squad.

"The team has been training and

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SIDEBAR

Saipan puts best foot forward for regionals

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan is putting its best foot forward in hosting the 2015 Asia Pacific Junior, Senior, and Big League Baseball Regional Tournament that will kick off tomorrow at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Close to 100 volunteers have been working since February, assisting in planning and preparing for the annual Little League event that offers World Series berths in three divisions.

Tournament director James Ada said that everything is in order as all committee members gave him an update in last Tuesday night's meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

"We held a final meeting with the committee members and we finalized all the preparations since we started plan-

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JON PEREZ
The steamroller operator takes a break after working on compacting the dirt of the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field yesterday in time for Friday's opening of the Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament.

CNMI jr. players hope to keep momentum

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
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REPORTER



After a mission accomplished in the ITF North Pacific Regional Championships 2015, the CNMI Junior Tennis Team will be focusing on the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships 2015 and hoping to extend its impressive showing in Fiji in August.

The Commonwealth bets topped the girls U12, U14, and 16 singles and doubles and boys U12 singles events of the regionals held last week in Guam, earned runner-up finishes in the girls U12 and U14 singles and doubles and boys U14 singles and doubles, and third in the boys U12 and U14 doubles and girls U12 and U14 singles. Fourteen of the 18 CNMI players who joined the tournament in Guam made it to the semifinals of their respective singles competitions and 14, too got slots to the North Pacific Team that will see action in the POJC. Overall, the Commonwealth has 15 players on the select squad with Carol Lee gaining an automatic spot for ruling last year's girls U14 singles contest in Fiji.

"I am hoping that Carol will be the first player in the region to win the U12, U14, and U16 singles titles," CNMI coach Jeff Race said.

Lee, who has been in Fiji since early this month, joining an elite group in the ITF Regional Training

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OCEANIA TENNIS

The CNMI's Isabel Heras returns to compatriot Ami Tsukagoshi during their girls U16 singles title game in the ITF North Pacific Regional Championships 2015 last week in Guam.